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SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1988

RAMADAN 21, 1408 AH

18 PAGES 150 FILLS

Former captives return home amid speculation about deal

French hostages in Lebanon freed

PARIS, May 6, (Agencies): Three Frenchmen held by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Beirut for three years began their first full day back in France today, amid speculation about arrangements that led to their release.

Premier Jacques Chirac hinted that Paris might restore diplomatic relations with Tehran and thanked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese military authorities for their help.

Diplomats Marcel Carton, 62, Marcel Fontaine, 45, and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, 44, arrived at Villacoublay military airport outside Paris in a government jet yesterday.

Iran said its intervention brought about their release. Tehran Television, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Ali Reza Moayeri, a deputy prime minister for political affairs, as saying Iran interceded "for humanitarian reasons."

Mediator

Scepticism at home and abroad met French claims that no deal had been struck. Complaints from Britain and elsewhere accused France of dealing with terrorists while 18 other foreigners remain hostage.

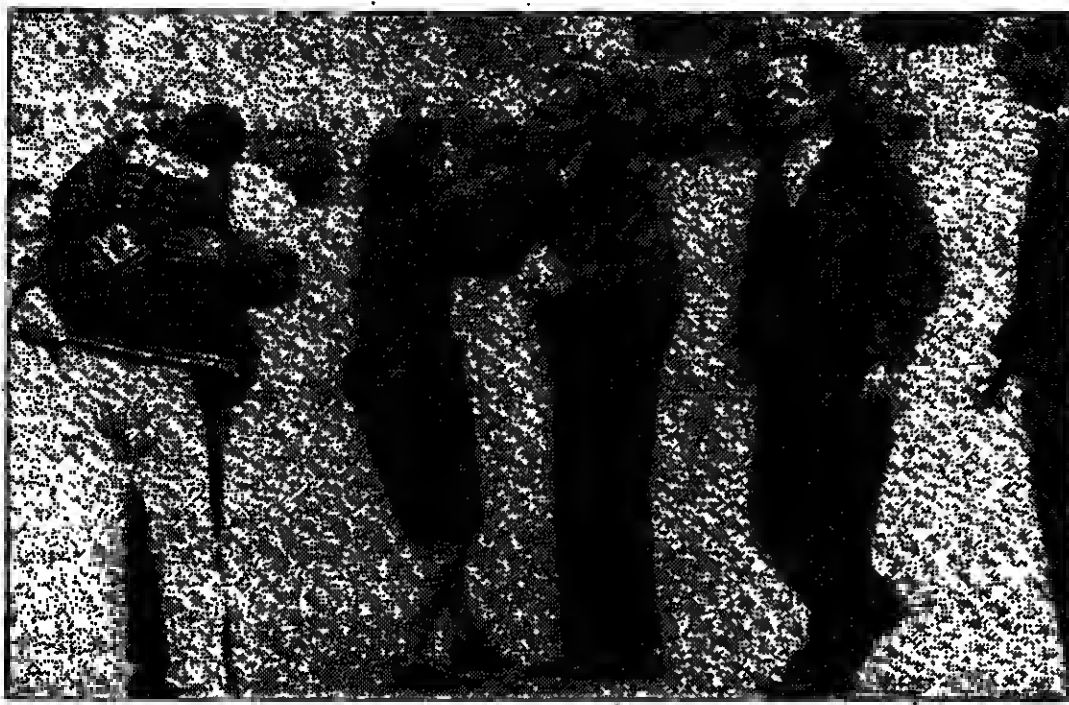
Reporters in Paris and Beirut said France had agreed to pay Iran the balance on a \$1-billion loan made by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Radio France Internationale, citing unnamed diplomatic sources, said France will sign a cheque for \$400 million within days.

The radio said France would release Anis Naccache, sentenced to life in prison for the 1980 assassination attempt against Shahpour Bakhtiar, an Iranian prime minister under the Shah.

ABC, an American television network, said France's mediator was Iranian businessman Manucher Ghorbanifar, who was involved in the US arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.

The station said France agreed to repay the rest of the loan in



Relatives of former French hostages — Marcel Fontaine (left), Marcel Carton (second from left) and Jean-Paul Kauffmann (second from right) — run to greet them on arrival in Paris. Prime Minister Jacques Chirac (right) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

food and other non-lethal supplies and re-establish relations with Iran. It said Iran agreed there will be no further terrorist attacks against France.

President Francois Mitterrand, asked in a radio interview if he would free Naccache, said he had not been asked. But last year, Mitterrand said he would free Naccache if Chirac asked him to do so as part of an arrangement to free all the hostages.

Ten French hostages have been released since Chirac's government took office in 1986. Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who supervised the intense hostage negotiations, said no ransom had been paid.

A senior Muslim security source in Beirut said France paid a ransom of about 10 million French francs (\$1.8 million).

Money, arms and French neutrality in the Gulf war "was the price" which Iran set for securing the freedom of the hos-

tages in Lebanon, according to a report published in London today.

The independent newspaper confirmed that there was also a promise by France to repay an outstanding loan to Iran and a French commitment to establish diplomatic ties with Tehran.

Quoting "well-informed sources in Beirut" it indicated that Iran had demanded to buy through third parties \$15 million of French-made arms ammunition and spare parts as well as the expulsion from France of the Syrian-born businessman Omar Adham.

Meanwhile, Adham told the paper in Switzerland after being expelled to Geneva yesterday "I know all the details. All the time I was telling the French not to bow to blackmail."

He said arms were part of the final deal and that the delivery would be made through Syria. He also said that Assad "played a central role in the hos-

tage release."

Al Itihad, a UAE newspaper said today France supplied Tehran with spare parts for Iran's grounded Mirage jet fighters and released Tehran's frozen assets in return for the release of hostages.

Al Itihad attributed its report to a prominent Islamic source, the daily claimed took part in efforts that eventually led to the freeing of the three Frenchmen.

French Foreign and Interior Ministry officials met yesterday with US, British, Italian and West German ambassadors to explain the circumstances surrounding the release.

The news agency Agence-France Presse said France offered to assist these countries in obtaining freedom for their hostages still held by Shi'ite Muslim extremists in Lebanon. No details were provided.

Kauffmann's wife said her

(Continued on Page 2)

UAE to maintain Iran ties

ABU DHABI, May 6, (Reuters): The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has suggested his country would maintain relations with Iran despite Saudi Arabia's decision to cut ties.

"We can protect the Gulf and ensure its security and stability if there is cooperation and understanding among all states of the region," Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, said during Army Day celebrations.

Diplomatic sources said the remarks showed he still favoured a conciliatory approach towards Iran despite an Iranian gunboat attack on the UAE's Mubarak oilfield on April 18.

The UAE is a member of the GCC along with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Unlike the rest, the UAE and Oman have good relations with Iran and advocate dialogue with it.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Tehran on April 26, citing Iran's hostile policy. Bahrain this week said other GCC states might follow but diplomatic sources ruled out such a move by the UAE or Oman.

Sheikh Zayed hinted yesterday he was not in favour of the Saudi move.

The current circumstances in our region entail wisdom by all parties. We should work together to keep the Gulf away from international conflicts," he said.

A senior Iranian envoy on Sunday delivered a letter to Sheikh Zayed from President Ali Khamenei urging him to pursue efforts for dialogue, diplomatic sources said.

"The UAE seems as if it still wants a dialogue and might go ahead with it on behalf of GCC nations if they agree," one said.

Sheikh Zayed contacts

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Sheikh Zayed contacts

Palestinian activist deported

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 6, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has ordered the deportation of Palestinian-American activist Muharak Awad, the Israeli government said today.

"By his activities, Awad caused harm to the security of the state and to public order.... He is one of the main contributors to the violent disturbances in Judea, Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza," a statement by the government's press office said.

Awad, a Jerusalem-born US national whose cause has been taken up here by American diplomats, was arrested at his East Jerusalem home yesterday and Shamir signed the deportation order the same day, it added.

The statement said Awad's centre "received funds from terror organisation sources abroad."

Awad, dubbed "the Palestin-

ian Gandhi" by supporters, advocates passive resistance to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and heads a Palestinian "centre for the Study of Non-violence" based in East Jerusalem.

Israeli authorities, who have been making efforts to deport him since his visa expired last November, say he has played an active role in a 21-week-old Palestinian uprising in which at least 177 Arabs and two Israelis have been killed.

The statement said that Awad was involved in preparing bulletins secretly distributed each week in the occupied areas to give instructions for anti-Israeli activities.

A spokesman for the US consulate said a consular official met Awad at Jerusalem police headquarters today.

"We are taking this issue very seriously and we are taking it up

with (Israeli) officials at a high level," the spokesman said.

Sources who demanded anonymity said US Ambassador Thomas Pickering planned to file a protest with Israel's government over the order.

The decision to deport Awad came amid a crackdown on leaders of the five-month uprising, 20 of whom have been deported into Lebanon.

Israel yesterday ordered a halt to all commerce in the occupied West Bank for three days, in response to a PLO-inspired general strike a day earlier.

Also yesterday, a Jewish settler shot and killed a Palestinian in the West Bank.

Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres challenged the PLO yesterday to renounce terror and acknowledge Israel's right to exist if it wanted to take part in a Middle East peace conference.

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Sheikh Zayed contacts

Saudis deny sending spy to Iran

RIYADH, May 6, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia has rejected an Iranian claim to have arrested a Saudi spy and warned Tehran against pursuing "misleading and venomous campaigns" against the kingdom.

Iran's announcement on Wednesday came amid allegations the Saudis had sent up Iranian diplomats before they left Saudi Arabia following Riyadh's decision to sever relations with Tehran on April 26.

Riyadh rejected those claims as "totally baseless" as tension between the two Gulf powers mounted.

"It is not difficult for the government of Iran, with its stigma of lying, to hire a mercenary from among its followers to do and say what he is ordered," a Saudi government official said in a statement distributed by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

Warning

Affirming that Saudi Arabia "does not behave in this cheap manner," the unidentified official said.

"As we strongly deny the exposed Iranian claims, we warn the rulers of Tehran against exceeding the limits in this manner, which is spurned by all sons of the Islamic nation," he said.

"We have decided to confront this misleading and venomous campaign with all firmness and determination," he added, without elaboration.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicaragua, said Tehran security authorities "arrested an agent of the Riyadh regime who had entered the country illegally with 300 million rials (\$4.5 million)".

"He will be dealt with as a spy," the statement said.

Look ahead

An official Saudi source has also denied Iranian allegations that Turkish military personnel have been assigned to maintain internal security in Saudi Arabia.

The source told SPA that Tehran Radio claims were completely baseless.

In another development Turkey has accepted an Iranian request to look after Iran's interests in Saudi Arabia following the break in diplomatic relations.

Turkey and Iran were awaiting approval from Saudi Arabia.

DAY BY DAY

EACH newspaper claims it is the best newspaper in the country.

It would be easy to determine which is the No. 1 newspaper by using a straightforward polling company instead of one paid by other companies or by individual newspapers to ensure that they are found to be in first position.

We ask the Ministry of Planning to put a stop to companies which are paid to advertise for a commodity, whether it's the press or other commercial fields.

How can the Ministry of Planning allow such companies to conduct surveys without permission from those involved?

We need neutral and fair polling companies to carry out surveys and request that the Planning Minister, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, put a stop to the dishonesty among some of them.

Zahed Matar

US bid to heal Syria-Lebanon rift

WASHINGTON, May 6, (AP): The State Department is conducting a little-publicised mediation effort to resolve another of the Middle East's seemingly hopeless conflicts: a dispute between Syria and Lebanon.

For the past five months, seasoned Middle East envoy April Glaspié has been shuttling between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, who have refused to talk to each other for more than a year, according to US officials.

Mr Glaspié's efforts focus on attempts to negotiate a power-sharing formula before the Lebanese Parliament's selection of a new president this summer.

Syria seeks increased Muslim influence in the political structure which currently favours the Christian minority led by

Gemayel.

The US wants to prevent the election process from deteriorating into anarchy and to nurture Syrian goodwill for efforts to free nine Americans held hostage in Lebanon. US officials say.

Glaspié's role is described as "more of a postman than a mediator," in the words of one official.

Glaspié, who served in the US embassy in Damascus and is now the US ambassador-designate to Iraq, "is indicating to the sides where compromises might be possible, but she's not putting forth any US initiatives," said the official.

Her diplomatic loop has also included stops in Paris and the Vatican, where officials are using their influence with Lebanon's Christians to advance the negotiations, he said.

But the Christians have thus far rejected the reforms proposed by Syria, and the United States is not hopeful of breakthroughs.

"There are very difficult issues involved so that it's going to continue to take effort, but we're committed to seeing what we can do," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

US officials concede privately that the most Glaspié might accomplish is a promise from both sides to seek violence-free elections before the constitutional deadline of Sept 23. No date has yet been set for the balloting.

Glaspié arrived in Lebanon today for talks with Gemayel.

Glaspié met former Foreign Minister Elie Salem, a close adviser to Gemayel, shortly after she arrived and was due to meet Gemayel later.

Raj Kapoor struggles for life

NEW DELHI, May 6, (Reuters): Indian movie star, director and producer Raj Kapoor, doyen of the world's biggest film industry, has been struggling to survive bronchitis and pneumonia, a hospital spokesman said.

Hundreds of fans went to the Delhi hospital to keep vigil for Raj Kapoor, 64, who collapsed at an awards ceremony on Monday.

"The condition of Raj Kapoor has deteriorated. The pneumonia condition of his lungs is causing great concern," a spokesman for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital said yesterday.

He is very sick, the spokesman said, adding that a team of top specialists was keeping a round-the-clock watch on Raj

Kapoor, who came to Delhi from his Bombay home to receive an award for an outstanding contribution to the Indian film industry.

Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman went down from the platform to hand the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award to Raj Kapoor as the star was receiving oxygen in his seat following the collapse.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was among several Indian leaders who visited Raj Kapoor at the hospital.

"My father has been suffering from bronchitis for the past few years. It was his decision to come personally to accept the prestigious award," daughter Reema Kapoor said.

Fans stood under a burning

sun, waiting for bulletins on the ailing star. Some even managed to slip through a hospital security cordon to hand flowers to his three film star sons.

Raj Kapoor shot to fame in 1951 playing a comic tramp in the film "Awara" which made him well known in the Soviet Union and China.

Film critic Amrita Malik said the film "was one of the first films to enter China and the Soviet Union after the war and it struck a chord among those people when it presented an underdog triumphing in a world of elegance and romance."

Said India Today magazine: "It made two generations of Soviets and Chinese think of India as Raj Kapoor's country."



Raj Kapoor: very sick

Raj Kapoor was already ill when he started on a new film, "Heena," which involved shooting in both India and Pakistan, where he was born in Peshawar on Dec 14, 1924.

Son of a well-known stage and cinema figure, Raj Kapoor started his career as a child star at the age of 10.



Capitol fire

WASHINGTON, (UPI): A fire in House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright's Capitol Hill office resulted in heavy damage though no serious injuries, authorities say. The blaze began shortly after 6 pm Thursday and was under control in about 20 minutes.

Police excesses

KARACHI, (Reuters): Shopkeepers in a Karachi suburb went on strike to protest at what they called police excesses after recent ethnic riots. Police were accused of rounding up people and firing in the air on Thursday night without provocation in Shah Faisal district.

Labour gains

LONDON, (AP): The opposition Labour Party has made strong gains in municipal elections and overtook Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives in the first electoral test of her radical third-term programme.

Federal rule

NEW DELHI, (AP): The lower house of Parliament has voted to extend federal rule in the strife-torn state of Punjab for another six months. The upper house was expected to approve the action later. (See also page 3)

Arafat visit

CAIRO, (Reuters): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit Egypt sometime after mid-May. Palestinian sources have told the Middle East News Agency. The PLO chairman will hold talks with Egyptian officials.

Residence 'by mail'

SOURCES at Kuwait's Interior Ministry have said that the public immigration administration is studying a project which would enable expatriates to renew their residence permits by mail.

The administration is now linking its offices at the four governorates with a computer network which will be centrally controlled, sources said, adding that the ability to use the postal system for residence permit renewal will largely depend on the computer network.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- لیٹان میں فرانس کے تین رہنماؤں کی رہائی
- یمنی آباد کاروں کی فائرنگ سے ایک فلسطینی ہلاک
- اسرائیلی فوج نے جنوبی لبنان میں ساڑھے ساتھ گناکات سدا کر دیئے
- نئی دہلی میں راجیو گاندھی اور افغان صدر نجیب اللہ کی بات چیت
- بھارت پر بھگدوش کے قبائلی باغیوں کی آواز کا ترام
- کراچی کے شاہ فیصل کالج میں دکانداروں کی ہڑتال

Insider 3.24 am

Urdu 6.29 pm

INTERNATIONAL

French hostages freed

(Continued from Page 1)

husband's captors informed the French hostages that three British captives held in Lebanon were alive.

If true, this would be the first indication that the three British hostages, Anglican church envoy Terry Waite, 48, journalist John McCarthy, 31, and teacher Brian Keenan, 37 -- are still alive.

Fontaine said his cellmate was Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press.

Survived

"We survived," he told the French Television Channel 5 at the hospital. "I passed the time playing dominoes and chess with my cellmate."

Asked who his companion was, Fontaine replied: "The American, Terry Anderson."

Anderson, 40, is the longest held of the remaining hostages. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985. Eight other Americans are captive.

Carton, Fontaine and Kauffmann appeared shaken and shaky as they walked slowly down the airplane steps on arrival in Paris. Kauffmann drew back uncertainly when his 13-year-old son, Alexander, approached him. Then, recognising him, Kauffmann's expression changed to delight.

Alexander's eyes filled with tears as he put his hands on his father's shoulders and looked him in the face.

"It's an incredible day," Kauffmann said. "But it's also a day which remains overshadowed because we are just three."

The journalist for the weekly magazine L'Evenement de Jeudi said Michel Seurat, the 39-year-old researcher captured with him May 22, 1985, probably died of cancer. Seurat's kidnappers claimed he had been executed.

Nightmare

Carton and Fontaine were kidnapped March 22, 1985.

Kauffmann said the kidnappers chained the hostages' ankles and took their radios when US warships approached Lebanon's coast in February 1987.

He recalled the captivity a "nightmare life."

At the airport, Chirac said: "As we all know, the liberation of our hostages falls into the framework of our relations with Iran. It's the authorities in Tehran who intervened with the captors so that they would free our countrymen."

France and Iran severed ties July 17 after an Iranian embassy employee, Wahid Gordji, refused to submit to questioning about bombings in Paris in September 1986. Gordji was allowed to leave Paris two days after French hostages were freed in Beirut.

The latest release came four days before Chirac's presidential runoff against Mitterrand, the favoured Socialist President, who is seeking a second seven-year term.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Skyscraper inferno

LOS ANGELES, May 6. (Reuters): Helicopters plucked 12 people from the roof of the tallest building in Los Angeles on Wednesday night as a spectacular fire destroyed four floors of the skyscraper and killed one person.

Thirty-one people, mostly suffering from smoke inhalation, were hurt and two were listed in critical condition.

Fire Department spokesman said on Thursday one man was killed in the blaze. He said the man's body was found in an elevator on the 12th floor, where the fire appeared to have started.

Carbide hearing

BHOPAL, May 6. (AP): Lawyers for Union Carbide today asked district court judge M.W. Deo to remove himself from hearing the \$3-billion damage case stemming from the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster.

Israeli jailed

HONG KONG, May 6. (Reuters): An Israeli arms dealer was sentenced to two years in jail in Hong Kong today for possessing six false passports, a stun gun and cannabis.

45 burned to death

BOMBAY, May 6. (AP): At least 45 passengers burned to death Thursday when a bus caught fire after crashing into a tree in central India, a government official said.

Bombs

BEIRUT, May 6. (Reuters): Two bombs exploded in Syrian-held areas of Lebanon, killing two people in a cinema and wounding three at a beach resort, police said today.



A student at a Henderson elementary school ducks for cover and covers his nose as a chemical cloud from an explosion in Nevada pollutes the air. (Reuter wirephoto)

One killed as rocket fuel plant explodes

HENDERSON, Nev., May 6. (Reuters): A blast at a rocket fuel plant near Las Vegas killed at least one person and injured up to 200 on Wednesday, hospital officials and eyewitnesses said.

The explosion at the Pacific Engineering and Production Co. of Nevada, which makes a component of the fuel for the space shuttle, was felt in Las Vegas, 17 miles (25 km) away.

It sent up a toxic cloud about 100 feet (30 metres) into the air, a local radio station said.

Eyewitnesses said an orange-glowing cloud was visible above the entire Las Vegas Valley, a bowl about 40 miles (70 km) across.

The explosion touched off a ball of fire whose smoke was visible in the gambling centre of Las Vegas.

Doug Bradford, spokesman for Las Vegas emergency management crisis team, confirmed one person had died and between 180 and 200 had been injured. Another two people who had been badly burned and taken to burn units in the University Medical Centre and the Valley Hospital, he said.

Polish workers vow to continue strike despite crackdown

KRAKOW, Poland, May 6. (UPI): Thousands of defiant steelworkers at the Lenin Foundry near Krakow vowed to stay off the job for an 11th day today, unhindered by a massive police raid in which several of their leaders were arrested.

In Gdansk, where a strike by shipyard workers entered its fifth day today, riot police rushed the main gate in a show of force but failed to frighten the strikers into a retreat, dissident sources in the Baltic sea port said.

"Brothers, steelers, the brutal action of the riot and security police did not break our strike," Andrzej Szewczuk, a strike committee leader, declared Thursday after thousands of police stormed the huge foundry in the Krakow suburb of Nowa Huta. "We shall win if we persist."

Defiance

A dissident source said nine strikers were seriously injured in the early morning police raid at the foundry, but a government spokesman denied the charge. Police said 38 activists were detained.

About 35 per cent of the 6,000 to 8,000 people assigned to the second shift at the foundry did not work following Thursday's raid, and after management for-

ced third-shift workers to declare "whether they were on strike, most went home, dissident sources said."

Wladyslaw Sitkowski, a spokesman for the officially sanctioned Communist Steelworkers Union, said many workers in the foundry are defying the government by refusing to do their assigned tasks.

"For instance, a bar comes out from the furnace and a worker who is supposed to handle it is missing," Sitkowski said.

Szewczuk, one of six members of the strike committee who managed to escape arrest, said the workers are demanding the release of their colleagues who were detained.

"Our main demand now is freedom for those who were arrested for participation in the strike," he said.

Szewczuk called on steelworkers around the world to demonstrate support for the Lenin Foundry employees. Authorities have also ordered operations suspended at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, where a strike by about 3,000 workers entered its fifth day today. Solidarity founder Lech Walesa Thursday promised the holdout strikers: "I will be the last to leave."

Rainbow Warrior agent returns home

WELLINGTON, May 6. (Reuters): Rainbow Warrior saboteur Dominique Prieur, was released from detention on a French island in the South Pacific and headed for home today without the consent of an angry New Zealand.

Her sudden departure from Hao Atoll, infuriated the nation and Prime Minister David Lange made a cryptic comment to reporters: "When the record of this appears, certain matters will be disclosed. It's not profitable to go into them at the moment."

The prime minister will make no further comment until after the French presidential election on Sunday.

Prospects

Prieur and fellow-agent Alain Mafart received 10-year prison terms after pleading guilty to sabotage and manslaughter after the sinking of the flagship of the Greenpeace environmental organisation at Auckland in 1985. One crewman was killed.

The ship was to have led a protest fleet to France's nuclear test zone.

Mafart was removed from Hao without New Zealand's consent in December, after com-

plaining of stomach pains. He and Prieur were supposed to spend at least another year there.

New Zealand media commentators said Prieur's return home was a further bid by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to enhance his presidential prospects after he secured the release of three French hostages in Lebanon and 23 in New Caledonia.

Prieur and Mafart are both regarded as heroes in France. Lange said he had been told through "normal diplomatic channels" that Prieur would be returned to France "forthwith".

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Paris, today said Prieur was on her way home.

"We can confirm that captain Prieur is heading back to France at this moment," he said. He declined to confirm press reports she might be pregnant. Lange said in December she was "labouring under a misconception".

A Dutch Foreign Ministry official visited Hao in March, at New Zealand's expense to check on her presence. New Zealand has never indicated that his report suggested she was pregnant.

Smokeless cigarette by year end

ATLANTA, May 6. (AP): Some smokers will be able to purchase a virtually smokeless cigarette during the last three months of the year, as one of the US largest cigarette manufacturers begins test-marketing the new product.

Whether sales will make the enterprise worthwhile is open to speculation, according to tobacco company analysts.

F. Ross Johnson, president and chief executive officer of RJR Nabisco Inc., told stockholders the cigarette will be available in some US markets during the fourth quarter.

"I think it's a possibility, somewhere greater than zero, it could be a major thing. It could be enough of an impact to slow down some of the anti-smoking campaign," said Neal Kaplan, an analyst with interstate securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The company remains secretive about its plans for the product, developed in a three-year project code-named "operation black hole," for competitive reasons.

There will be no information on the test markets, the product's brand name, projected sales or inventory until just before the product is available, according to David Fisher, spokesman for RJR subsidiary R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Full-scale war feared in New Caledonia
21 die in assault to free hostages

NOUMEA, New Caledonia, May 6. (Reuters): The death toll from a commando attack on Kanak kidnappers in New Caledonia rose to 21 today amid fears of full-scale warfare by indigenous people fighting to end French rule.

An Army spokesman told Reuters that soldiers combing thick scrub on the remote island of Onvea had found the bodies of three more Melanesian Kanak rebels, bringing to 19 the number of separatists killed during the seven-hour assault on Thursday.

Two French commandos were also killed in the action, which ended two weeks of captivity for 23 French hostages.

More than 8,000 French troops and police were put on maximum alert following threats of all-out war by separatist Kanak leaders.

Hour of fight

"Describing the dead guerrillas as martyrs of the separatist cause, the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) called on Kanaks to 'take up the gauntlet against colonialism because the hour to fight has come.'"

At their daily news conference on Thursday, FLNKS leaders called the assault "a new demonstration of colonial barbarism" and "a day of shame for the French."

Hundreds of FLNKS rebels have been waging a two-week battle of barricades and bullets against French rule.

Kanak make up 43 per cent of the South Pacific territory's 145,000-strong population.

The FLNKS, supported by many Pacific states, had said the hostages would be released unharmed and the unrest halted if Paris named an independent mediator to open talks on independence for the island territory.

The hostages were held in a sacred scrub-covered tribal cavern on a seaside cliff by a group of fanatic mystics, French officials said.

Red alert

French Overseas Minister Bernard Pons, speaking on national radio, said he had ordered the Army and gendarmerie on to red alert "because I know that here and there terrorists are gearing up for action."

Yeiwene Yeiwene, Deputy leader of the FLNKS, described Thursday's assault as "a massacre" ordered by right-wing Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to win votes in French presidential elections on Sunday.

Chirac needs support from ultra-rightists in his attempt to wrest victory from socialist

incumbent Francois Mitterrand. "We had instructed our members to hold off action until after the election. But now we call on Kanaks to rise up in every corner of our land," Yeiwene said.

The FLNKS politburo said isolated attack against Army barracks and the barricading of major roads were no longer enough. "Mobilisation must now spread everywhere and action put on a par with (French) terrorism," it said.

Pons, who was flown to the islands to quell the separatist disturbances and free the hostages, denied the assault on the cave was politically motivated.

He told reporters after what he called "the seven most difficult hours of my life" that both Mitterrand and Chirac had agreed to the operation after it became clear that negotiating with the rebels was fruitless.

"What was at stake was the honour of France, the honour of the French Army, the national gendarmes and the lives of 23 Frenchmen," he said.

The government was ready for dialogue, he said. "But talks are not possible with terrorists who take hostages and who threaten to assassinate them day and night, in a cowardly and unacceptable way."

BBC defies Thatcher on Gibraltar documentary

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) defied the government on Thursday by going ahead with a documentary suggesting that British agents gave no warning before shooting three Irish guerrillas in Gibraltar.

BBC director general Michael Checkland, announcing his decision in a letter to Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, said the March shootings "had provoked a number of unanswered questions about what happened and about the subsequent handling of the affair by the authorities."

Hours earlier, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had urged BBC chiefs to withhold Thursday night's "spotlight" programme containing interviews with two people who said they saw the incident in the British colony.

"One cannot agree with the rule of law and flout its conditions," she told parliament.

It was Thatcher's second abortive attempt in a week to stop a broadcast questioning the government's version of the shooting of two men and a woman in the British colony nine weeks ago.

She insists the programmes, though not broadcast in Gibraltar, could prejudice an inquiry to be held there next month.

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Yemenis patch up dispute

SANA, May 6. (AP): North and South Yemen have affirmed their commitment to unity in an agreement that has defused a simmering dispute along the oil-rich border, but diplomatic sources saw little prospect of an early merger.

North Yemen's President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and Ali Salem Al Baidh, secretary-general of South Yemen's ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, reached agreement in Sana and details were announced yesterday.

The summit meeting capped months of negotiations by senior officials from both countries, and mediation efforts by Arab leaders, to cool tensions between the two countries that lie on the southwest tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Trouble began brewing along the undemarcated border last October as both countries, among the poorest in the Arab world, strove to develop their new-found oil wealth. There was some skirmishing, but no major clashes.

India backs coalition Najibullah offers peace

NEW DELHI, May 6. (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah, on a rare visit outside the Soviet bloc, passionately renewed his pleas for peace and reconciliation in his war-torn land.

Opening a three-day visit to India, which has close ties to Moscow but stresses it is non-aligned, Najibullah renewed his plea for his exiled opponents to sit down with him and work on a peaceful future.

He was speaking at a banquet on Wednesday night, 11 days before an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops are scheduled to begin their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Kabul was ready "without pre-conditions to call upon all the opposition, whether in Pakistan, Rome, London, Bonn, in the United States or anywhere else, to attend a nationwide peace jirga (assembly) for solving the internal aspects of the Afghan problem," Najibullah said.

Leaders of mujahideen rebels based in Pakistan, however, have rejected a United Nations-brokered accord between Najibullah

and Pakistan in April on Soviet withdrawal to begin on May 15 and be completed over nine months.

They have vowed to continue an eight-year war that has cost at least a million lives until Najibullah's leftwing government is crushed.

Coalition

Top Indian officials, who have never openly criticised Moscow's December, 1979 intervention in Afghanistan to prop up a tottering communist government, made clear their backing for Najibullah's plan to establish a broad-based coalition.

"We look forward to these efforts ushering in an era of peace and progress for the friendly people in Afghanistan," Indian President Ramaswamy Venkatarman said at the banquet.

He promised India would give what it could in aid and expertise to help Afghanistan recover from a bloody war that has caused five million people to flee to Pakistan and Iran.

Indian officials, however, remained tight-lipped over what

political role New Delhi wished to play in making peace between Kabul and the mujahideen.

A hasty one-day visit to Islamabad by the top civil servant at the Indian External Affairs Ministry on the eve of Najibullah's visit to New Delhi created considerable speculation that India sought such a role.

Meanwhile, a report said today that the United States would support, under certain conditions, a provisional government set up by Afghan mujahideens to rival the Soviet-backed Afghanistani regime.

A State Department official met with Afghan rebel leaders in Pakistan last week to explain the American position, the New York Times reported today.

The newspaper quoted an unidentified top State Department official assaying the United States would welcome a provisional government in Afghanistan if it controlled territory and met certain other criteria.

These criteria were described as "consent of the people, capacity and willingness to exer-



Najibullah peace

cise international obligations, possession of a civil administrative apparatus that can govern."

Such a government "would have earned recognition from the international community," the Times quoted the official as saying.

From May 15, seven million Afghan refugees will be asked to walk through uncharted minefields back to homes still within the sound of the guns and to fields blasted by war.

The head of the Pakistan office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) believes his organisation faces its most daunting task yet in trying to help them.

'Witch' raps West Bengal government

CALCUTTA, May 6. (AP): Ipsita Roy Chakrabarty, self-described witch and former schoolteacher, is accusing officials of failing to protect witches in West Bengal state, where at least 20 suspected sorcerers were murdered last year.

The 44-year-old housewife went public Saturday after Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, the top government official of West Bengal state, disclosed the slayings during a discussion on crime in the state.

"Are we repeating and perpetrating the misdeeds and mistakes of medieval Europe?" Mrs Chakrabarty said. "Why is there nobody to call the killing of witches in present-day India heinous and superstitious?"

Basu, who heads the Communist Marxist Party in West Bengal, said April 27 that at least 27 people had been arrested in the killings of the suspected witches in the eastern state, which borders Bangladesh.

Sikh militants kill 12 more in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, May 6. (UPI): Sikh militants today shot and killed 12 people in attacks in northern Punjab state, including seven members of a family massacred in a hail of automatic weapons fire, police said.

Police said an unspecified number of militants armed with automatic weapons before dawn stormed into the home of Harban Singh, of Gulari village, 45 miles (75 km) southwest of Chandigarh, and killed him, his wife, three sons and two daughters.

The attackers then broke into a nearby commune belonging to the Nirankari sect, an offshoot of the Sikh religion, and killed two people, police said.

They said one victim was a blind man.

Police said they suspected the nine victims were slain because they were members of Nirankari, which is despised by orthodox Sikhs for tenets considered blasphemous, including a belief in "living gurus."

In other incidents, Sikh militants killed three people in attacks carried out early Friday

in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Patiala districts, police said.

They gave no further details.

Meanwhile, Punjab's top security official said police may enter the Golden Temple in Amritsar because of clashes with armed separatists controlling the holiest shrine of the Sikh faith, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Julio Ribeiro, advisor to the north Indian state's governor, said, however, the government had no plans as yet to flush out the extremists controlling the sprawling temple complex.

Ribeiro, former Punjab police chief, spoke to reporters in the Punjab district headquarters town of Jullundur as security forces in Amritsar built fortified encampments covering the approaches to the temple.

Police outside the Golden Temple last week exchanged fire with separatists inside who have been fighting for an independent Sikh homeland in north India. At the time, police said the extremists had built fortifications inside the complex.

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Palestinians fight in Beirut camp

BEIRUT, May 6. (Reuters): Fighting erupted in Beirut's battered Shatila refugee camp today between rival Palestinian commandos while two Shi'ite groups fought running street battles in the city's southern suburbs.

At least four people were killed and three wounded in the fighting in the narrow, alleyways of Shatila shantytown, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said commandos loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat traded heavy rocket and machinegun fire with fighters of a dissident pro-Syrian group led by Abu Musa.

Battles

The battles, which flared during the night, broke a lull that had held since Tuesday when Arafat's men said they gained control of the camp, home to some 3,500 refugees living in small tin and concrete shacks.

The sources said the fighting broke out after Abu Musa's group brought up reinforcements.

Before a ceasefire took hold on Tuesday, Shatila and nearby Bourj Al Barajneh camp had seen four days of clashes in which

seven people died and 38 were wounded.

In the Shi'ite southern suburbs, pro-Iranian Hizbollah militiamen and fighters of the Amal movement exchanged machinegun and rocket fire in running street battles. Fighting flared at dawn and spread over a wide area.

Residents said militiamen clad in olive green military fatigues and brandishing automatic weapons took to the streets of the suburbs while others deployed on the rooftops.

Amal and Hizbollah fought three days of pitched battles last month for control of south Lebanon, killing at least 38 people and wounding more than 82.

Amal said it crushed Hizbollah, financed and strongly supported by Iran, in the south.

The latest clashes were a blow to Iranian-sponsored peace talks among the two groups aimed at ending their long struggle for control of the south and the suburbs.

The two sides agreed on April 27 to use dialogue if any dispute arose, to abandon armed confrontation and to stop trading insults.

Climbers meet atop Everest

KATHMANDU, May 6. (Reuters): Japanese, Tibetan and Nepali climbers appeared on television at the summit of Mount Everest on Thursday after scaling the world's highest mountain from opposite sides.

The Japanese television pictures, broadcast from the summit and seen in Kathmandu, showed six climbers at the top of the 8,848-metre (29,028-foot) mountain.

Two Tibetans — Da Cering, 37, and Rinque Puncog, 44 — along with Nepal's Ang Purbu Sherpa, 27, scaled the mountain from Nepal's south side.

Japanese mountain guide

Noboru Yamada, 38, from Numata city, who has climbed Everest twice before, Tibetan Cering Doje, 29, and Ang Lhakpa Sherpa from Nepal ascended from the northern, Tibetan side of the mountain.

The expedition's plan is for one member of each three-man team to descend the opposite side to the one he climbed.

It will be the first time climbers have crossed the mountain in either direction.

Japanese mountaineer Mitsugu Kitamura, 29, from Ise city, started below the others scaling the south side, but was aiming to reach the top on Thursday.

West German firm denies sale of N-material to India

DUESSELDORF, May 6. (Reuters): A West German firm, accused of illegally exporting Norwegian nuclear material to India, said on Thursday it had not broken the law.

"Our company has not violated national laws or agreements with suppliers," Rohstoff-Einfuhr GMBH company manager Helmut Swyen, told Reuters.

The Norwegian government said on Wednesday it did not know the whereabouts of 15 tonnes of "heavy water" sold by industrial giant Norsk Hydro to the Duesseldorf-based firm in 1983 and would call in police to investigate.

Heavy water, or deuterium oxide, can be a key ingredient in the production of nuclear bombs and its export is tightly controlled. Norway forbids the resale of heavy water to a third party.

Swyen-disputed allegations made by the Oslo popular daily Verdens Gang last month that Alfred Hempel, the West German businessman who owns Rohstoff-Einfuhr, had resold the heavy water to India after saying it would be used for research in Western Europe.

"We bought the goods in transit and sold them on in Switzerland," Swyen said. "As far as we're concerned, the business ended in Basel."

The Oslo newspaper said Hempel falsified documents to divert the heavy water to a reactor in Bombay via Basel and Dubai.

Experts have described the quantity of material involved as significant. The International Atomic Energy Authority says 20 tonnes of heavy water can produce enough plutonium in a year to conduct a nuclear explosion.

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Dhaka sees foreign hand in tribal revolt

DHAKA, May 6. (Reuters): Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury called a tribal revolt blamed for 47 deaths in the past two weeks an "evil design based on a foreign blueprint," but stopped short of naming neighbouring India.

The attacks by mainly Chakma tribesmen of the Shanti Bahini guerrillas in Chittagong Hill Tracts were "part of blueprint prepared with foreign help, to serve evil purposes," he told parliament.

"We know where the rebels operate from, where they get arms and training," Chowdhury said. But he did not name India which Bangladeshi officials have accused in the past of aiding the rebels.

Bangladeshi officials said last Monday that at least 47 Bengali-speaking settlers had been killed in the past two weeks by the guerrillas fighting for autonomy for the hill tracts.

Three members of parliament said Bangladesh should scrap a treaty of friendship with India because of India's alleged help for the rebels.

The Shanti Bahini took up arms in 1973 after the government rejected their demands for autonomy and for expulsion of 300,000 settlers from the 14,500 sq km hill and forest region bordering India and Burma.

Nearly 1,400 settlers, rebels and soldiers have been killed in the 15-year-old insurgency.

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Kuwaiti minister hails WHO efforts to achieve health goals

GENEVA, May 6. (Kuna): Kuwaiti Health Minister, Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak, hailed here today the great efforts exerted by the World Health Organisation during the last 40 years to achieve healthy life for the world people.

In his address, delivered on the 40th anniversary of the WHO, the Kuwaiti minister said, Kuwait had celebrated the WHO 40th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of "Alma Ata" declaration and organised a Health Week in Kuwait.

Seminars were also held on the occasions with the aim of educating the public about health awareness, he said.

Over Kuwait's daily health services to citizens and residents, Dr Abdul Razzak and health services in Kuwait hospitals and clinics are extended free of charge. Special attention is given to maternity and childcare, injection and protection from diseases.

The Kuwaiti minister noted that Kuwait was particularly concerned with combating smoking through educational campaigns, increase of customs fees on tobacco import, as well as

proposing of a legislation banning smoking in certain areas.

In the child health area, the Kuwaiti official said his country has been greatly concerned with protecting children against fatal and contagious diseases through injection, which covered a spectrum of more than 90 per cent.

Training
This resulted in a slash in the infant mortality which stood at 15.6 per cent, half of the 1980 percentage, which goes in conformity with the Unicef instructions, that requested such a decrease be realised by 1990. Kuwait has even achieved the required rate prior to the set date, he elaborated.

Training courses for national cadres employed in the health areas, health research, and check-ups for all imported labour, and AIDS combating have received special attention by Kuwaiti authorities.

The minister called on the WHO, to continue extending health services to Lebanon and to condemn the Israeli brutal acts against the Palestinian people, who are in need of the organisation's services.

Meanwhile, specialists attend-

ing a WHO seminar here today, would try to draw up recommendations on how the agency's goal of "health for all by the year 2,000" could be achieved, Kuwait Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, said yesterday.

In comments to Kuna, the minister added that a panel of six people from each WHO region were aware that the issue of health for all was not a simple health question, "it is a very complex social, economic and cultural issue."

The minister, whose previous post was minister of health, will be representing the East Mediterranean Region, which groups most Arab states.

Monitoring
The seminar was being arranged to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Alma-Ata meeting in the Soviet Union, when world health leaders agreed that massive investment in primary health programmes should be made in order to reach the objective of health for all, he recalled.

Dr Al Awadi said he believed a regular series of such meetings involving experts from all the

regions should be held to monitor and follow-up progress in world health programmes.

The minister predicted the six experts would agree that there should be more central monitoring to make sure that targets were being reached.

"At today's meeting we will try to assess what progress has been made in the past 10 years and at the same time we will try to see the best way to proceed in the future," he commented.

"Health for all by the year 2,000 is an easy thing to say, but we need to know how much has been done and how can really make it more practical," he said.

The Kuwaiti minister, who is well known in international health circles and who has extensive experience in public health matters, was president of the World Health Organisation's annual conference in 1980.

Recent WHO statistics show that since the Alma-Ata declaration, the proportion of the world's children who have been inoculated against the six most common infectious, and often fatal, diseases had risen from 5.00 per cent to close to 50 per cent.

Book fair opens

SHEIKH Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, recently opened the Eighth Book Fair organised by the Sociologist Society at its premises in Al Odaiya.

Sheikh Nasser expressed his appreciation towards the activities of the society, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. He told reporters present that it was a pleasure to every year witness a wide choice of books in diversified fields of discipline. He was particularly appreciative of the printing of the Holy Quran verses and their meanings and vocabulary on a single computerised tape.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Undersecretary of the Information Ministry Abdulaziz Jaafar, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Issa Yaseen; the Assistant Undersecretaries of the two Ministries; The Editor in Chief of Al Arabi Magazine; the acting Secretary General of National Council of Culture Arts and Letters, Dr Sulaiman Al Askari and the Secretary General of the Society, Faisal Al Saeel.



Sheikh Nasser (second left) looking at some books.

No plan to increase air fares: Mazidi

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi has said that there is no intention to increase air fares from Kuwait to any country by Kuwait Airways Corporation or any other airline.

As chairman of the Higher Council for Civil Aviation, Mazidi said that the council rejects any unjustified increase in airfares and has asked relevant authorities not to increase fares until the end of the summer.

The general Civil Aviation Authority has also denied that airfares would be increased according to an agreement between KAC and most other airlines in Kuwait.

The authority warned that airlines which increase airfares above prices charged in December would be held legally responsible.

Focus on administrative reforms

THE Undersecretary of the Education Ministry, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari, presided over a committee meeting entrusted with coordinating the progress of administrative planning and administrative development projects at the ministry.

Al Khudari said discussions at the meeting dealt with the methodologies for the next stage of administrative development and developing existing organisational structure at the ministry such as educational areas and related operational by-laws.

The undersecretary said that discussions focused on the need for the committee to pursue its studies throughout the summer recess so as to define obstacles to the existing organisational structure and recommend solutions aimed at eliminating these obstacles and optimise the educational process management.

Al Khudari issued instructions for the formation of three committees to undertake organisational studies, for ministry headquarters, for educational areas and for schools management.

King Fahd meets President Saieh

RIYADH, May 6. (Kuna): The Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz last night met President of the Yemen Arab Republic Col. Ali Abdullah Saleh in holy Makkah. Radio Riyadh reported today.

The monarch earlier received the president along with the accompanying delegation who arrived here Thursday afternoon to perform Umra (minor pilgrimage), the broadcast added.

The Yemeni delegation arrived in Madina at dawn Friday within its visit to the kingdom to perform umra and visit the prophet's mosque in Madina, it concluded.

3 years jail for having illegal sex

A MAN and a woman were sentenced to three years in jail by Kuwait's Criminal Court for having illegal sexual relations with one another.

Judge Abdn Salam Al Qurash presided at the court session.

9,239 work permits issued

ACCORDING to statistics issued by Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the labour department at the Capital Governorate issued 14,277 entry permits for work from January 3 to March 31 this year. The department also issued 9,239 work permits for the same period.

The statistics also showed that the department renewed 26,099 work permits and cancelled 30,966 during the same period.

Also during this time, the department inspected 2,664 installations, which employ 10,968 workers, finding 687 of the installations in violation of ministry regulations of which 116 were referred to court.

Call to test imported meat products

DR FAISAL Abu Daqqa said that imported meat products must be carefully tested to ensure that there was no pork present in them.

At a symposium held as part of the Kuwaiti Chemical Society's 3rd educational session, Abu Daqqa said that some companies would use pork products with meat because it was cheaper.

"At the symposium, entitled 'The detection of pork and pork fat in food items,' Dr. Abu Daqqa said that it was a national responsibility to protect the Muslim society from products containing pork or pork fat.

Egyptian ship visits Jeddah

CAIRO, May 6. (Reuters): An Egyptian Navy Frigate arrived in the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah on Thursday in the first such visit since the two countries restored diplomatic ties last November.

Military sources in Cairo said the frigate Nasser would stay three days in the Red Sea port.

The visit comes amid increasing military contacts between Egyptian and Gulf Arab officials, who are concerned by an overspill of the Iran-Iraq war.

New moon sighting

KUWAITI astronomer Dr Saleh Al Ojairi said that the sighting of the Shawwal crescent was done by scientific methods and that it was impossible for anyone untrained in these methods to sight the crescent.

He said that the new moon would be visible by telescope on the 29 and 30 of the Arabic calendar for a period of 15 to 20 minutes. He added that it would be impossible to see the crescent in the city because of the ground lights.

Lecture on water heaters

AT a recent lecture held at Kuwait University on the problems and solutions of water heaters, Dr Adel Al Subaih commented that in spite of the availability of quality water heaters, on the occasions they have exploded, have resulted in leaving the scenes resembled the aftermath of a bomb. Conversely, he said, that low quality water heaters start leaking the moment they are defective and cause no explosion. Also, there were types of heaters where the electrical circuit was automatically broken at the

point of high-pressure buildup.

Dr Subaih added that new water heaters, more often than not were installed by labourers who possessed no specialised knowledge, resulting in many installation errors, which lead to eventual accidents. He commented, that the heater explosion accidents in Dhabar were caused due to lack of ventilation and high pressure buildup and recommended that owners and occupants should ensure sound installation and periodical checks by specialists.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Israeli invasion of Lebanon

TWO Kuwaiti dailies have commented on the recent Israeli military operation in south Lebanon.

Al Rai Al Aam newspaper said through the "mini invasion" to south Lebanon, Israel wanted to tranquillise the Israelis who now feel insecure.

Israel has failed to thwart the raging popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and affect position of the PLO due to the new rhythm in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. The Arabs have to take advantage and exploit the elements in the Middle East conflict and establish an effective Arab movement, Al Rai Al Aam pointed out.

Al Waton tackled the same issue from a different angle.

It said the Arabs stood still during the Israeli military operation in Lebanon, even the usual statements of denunciations and condemnations were absent, the paper added.

Israel penetrated deep into Lebanese territory with its tanks, armoured vehicles, cannons and agents, killed, destroyed, and withdrew, all this and the "Arabs are sleeping," the paper noted. The Arab nation has ignored cries of the suppressed Lebanese people, Al Waton said.

Media and press department to open next year

DEAN of Kuwait University's arts college Dr Khalidoun Al Naqib has asked various media institutions in the country to assist, by providing necessary utilities, in the establishment of the media and press department.

Dr Naqib told Kuna that the department will open classes most probably by September, 1989, after an executive committee assigned to prepare for its inauguration completes its work. The delay in opening that department was because of the desire to ensure the volume of local demand on information-related posts, he said, adding that a number of field studies pointed to the need of specialists in the information fields.

He affirmed that the department will focus on the professional aspect and will endeavour to elevate the profession and he

praised the information ministry and various other media bodies for their readiness to supply the department with a number of the expensive laboratories and equipment.

Dr Naqib said that two conditions must be met prior to the admission of students, first the number of students will not exceed 30 to 35 to cope with the available utilities and, second, the students have to pass Arabic and English languages tests after a meeting with university doctors to measure their scientific background and self-expression.

He noted that the students will study for five years before obtaining a certificate and underlined that a high-level curriculum will be pursued as a result of eight years of studies over the creation of that department.

Caravan owners expect a large number of hajjis

EACH year, during the holy month of Ramadan, owners of Hajj caravans make preparations for Hajjis proceeding to the holy lands by road.

Al Seyassah interviewed several Hajj caravan owners to ascertain preparations and obtain their views.

Ojail Al Enzi, four years in the field, stated that acceptance of Hajjis commenced at the outset of Ramadan and July 6 would be the closing date. Praising Kuwait's hajj caravans as the best in the world, coupled with the government's care programmes, he commented: "This year will see a big number of hajjis due to the schools summer vacations coinciding with the hajj."

He added that having the highest confidence in the Saudi security forces, the Iranian threat would not adversely affect the number of hajjis.

Mohamad Al Naji, another owner, stated that this year's preparations were on a larger scale. Booklets were printed for the Hajjis aboard the caravan to guide them correctly on rituals and included prayers for recital during the journey. Thanking officials of the Interior, Health and Awwaq ministries for their assistance and cooperation, he stated that his caravan would leave on July 14 and return on 28 of the same month.

Ahmad Al Shati, organising caravans since 1982, attested that mistakes concerning former caravans were studied to avoid repetitions and urged all hajjis to ensure medical check-ups and vaccinations.



An Ollman Mehjong Competition was held recently at the Meridian Hotel with executive managers from various Japanese companies in Kuwait participating. Mr Matsuo Ohno, Station Manager of Japan Airlines, is pictured with other contestants, after winning the competition.

Minister urged to intervene in school dispute

A LARGE number of parents of pupils at the French School of Kuwait have appealed to the Education Minister, Anwar Al Nouri, to intervene in the dispute that has arisen between the school administration and the owner of the school.

At a recent meeting, the parents said that their children's future education plans were at stake because the French Education Ministry no longer recognises the school and its certificates.

They said that non-French children, who had begun their education while in France in French schools, had continued their education in the Kuwait French School, planning to return to France to continue their studies.

They added that a recent statement made by the Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education, Dr Yacoub Al Sharrif, ignores the fact that the French Education Ministry will no longer recognise the Kuwait French School.

Guide on accredited US colleges

THE cultural office at the Kuwait Embassy in Washington recently published a guide on accredited American colleges and universities.

The guide contains various academic specialties for 1988-89 listed according to the conditions and standards approved by Kuwait's Education Ministry, according to a Kuwaiti newspaper.

The head of the cultural office, Dr Musaed Al Haroun, said that the 385 page guide was prepared in about 18 months.

He said the list of universities and colleges was likely to be reviewed and changed annually according to Kuwait's educational needs.

Amir of Bahrain meets Kuwait envoy

MANAMA, May 6. (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa met on Thursday evening with Kuwait's Ambassador Ahmad Abdullah Al Mubarak.

According to Manama-based Gulf News Agency, the two focused on bilateral issues and recent developments in the Gulf region.

Arab tradition of marriage among relatives changing

MARRIAGE among relatives is an old Arab tradition, and in the past bedouins used to force their sons and daughters to marry cousins.

This was sometimes done when the girl was only a child, and she was not allowed to marry anybody else unless her cousin announced that he was not interested in marrying her.

Customs have changed nowadays, and some families allow their daughters to marry someone who is not a relative. Some families however still cling to the old traditions.

A local newspaper interviewed a number of persons about the religious, medical, social and legal aspects of this custom.

Dr Zohair Hatah said that marriage among relatives would facilitate several matters, one being keeping of property and other inheritance within the family.

Moulded
The dean of the Islamic Studies College, Dr Ahmad Ghandour, said that a wife was the most important member of a family because most characteristics and habits were moulded by mothers.

He said Islam advised a man to marry a religious woman and warned against marrying for money, beauty or strong family backgrounds. Islam says that a woman who is religious is better able to raise a good family.

He said that this did not mean

that one should ignore beautiful women, but it was important to bear in mind that religion came first.

According to Islam's suras and hadith, marriage with non-relatives was better for inheritance and stronger bodies.

Dr Ahmad said that marriage among relatives generally led to a very dead sexual life between husband and wife. He said that Islam did not prohibit marriage among relatives but marriage with unrelated persons was better.

Common
A professor of social science at Kuwait University and director of social assistance, Dr Ali Ahmad Al Tarah, said that sociologists considered the family as a type of social tie.

Dr Al Tarah added that the development stages of families was the result of social developments, adding that the economic and social systems of families was only a part of the system of society as a whole.

He pointed out that marriage among relatives reflected the social and cultural state of society, and was still common among some social groups, although it was on its way out.

Most marriages among relatives take place in tribes or specific social groups that have deep family roots. This type of marriage might cause some problems, mostly due to emotional distance between wife and husband. Such marriages are

generally based on social norms.

He also said that marriage among relatives sometimes resulted in inheritance of many diseases common to the family, and marriage among relatives had disappeared in advanced countries for this reason.

Deformities
Dr Mohammad Khalifa of the hereditary diseases centre said that marriage among relatives might be an advantage if good hereditary characteristics existed in both families, but could be a disadvantage if hereditary factors were not good. The rate of defective children would increase among children in such cases.

The head of the hereditary diseases centre, Dr Sadiqa Ali Al Awadi, said that taking pre-marriage tests was the best way to prevent a marriage that could result in birth deformities.

A lawyer, Fadila Deaj Al Sahah, said there should be a law to force people considering marriage to take blood tests and other health tests. She said a doctor should be in a position to stop marriages if there was the danger of the children getting hereditary diseases. She added that such steps were taken in advanced countries.

Another lawyer, Loula Mohammad Rashid, said she was against passing a law prohibiting the marriage of relatives. She said that health awareness should be widespread before such a law was passed.



● A cave-in of the ground at Farwanly primary school last week caused a hole (picture) measuring eight metres in diameter and 3 metres deep. A local daily reported that the Education Ministry took security precautions preventing children approaching the hole. Informal sources attributed the cave-in to the extensive sewage network in the area.

Euro-Arab meeting

A KUWAITI daily yesterday quoted an official European source as saying that a Euro-Arab meeting at the foreign ministers level will be held in Bonn on July 23.

The paper quoted the source as saying that the meeting will be limited to chairmen of the previous, current and coming sessions of the European community namely Denmark, West Germany and Greece and their counterparts at the Arab League, Syria, Sudan and Somalia.

The source noted that agenda of the meeting will be open to all political problems of the Arab and European groups, including the Mideast situation, Palestinian uprising, the Iraq-Iran war, assassination of PLO military leader Abu Jihad and the Israeli latest incursion into south Lebanon.

South Korean donation for Palestinian students

DAWOOD Musaed Al Saleh, chairman of the council of the international establishment for supporting Arab students, Kuwait Branch, stated that the government of South Korea had donated \$250,000 towards supporting Palestinian students studying in Arab and foreign universities to attain majors in science and technology.

At a ceremony held at the UN premises in New York and attended by a number of Arab and foreign dignitaries the Korean envoy to the UN presented the cheque to the director general of the establishment Dr Ishaq Al Qutub. During the ceremony the Korean envoy in a speech expressed solidarity of his government with the Palestinian cause.

Al Saleh, further stated that the government of South Korea in 1983 allocated \$1,000,000 to

the establishment and 154 Palestinian students benefited. These students are now carrying on doctorates, masters and bachelor degrees in the disciplines of engineering, sciences, economy, marine sciences and space communications.

Al Saleh appreciated and thanked the Korean government for their support towards the development of the Third World and in particular the stand and support towards the programmes and objectives of the establishment.

Gift parcels

THE Postal Administration of Turkey has notified Kuwait's Ministry of Communications that Turkey has established a set fee of DM500 for gift parcels addressed to Turkey.

OBITUARY



Our loving father
SRI MOHAN LAL KUMAR
Departed for heavenly abode
on
5-5-1988
Deeply mourned by
sorrowing family

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I NEVER met a rich man who was happy, but I have only very occasionally met a poor man who did not want to become a rich man — Malcolm Muggeridge, English writer (1903-)

US bungled Panama policy

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): US officials say they are optimistic Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega will step down, but critics contend the American drive to oust him has been badly bungled and will probably backfire even if he does quit.

As a result of intense US economic pressure, Panama — with its strategic canal and key US military bases — may be far less stable economically and politically in the years ahead, according to Democratic and Republican critics of the Reagan administration's approach.

"Our policy has been wrong, ill-conceived, a gamble at best," former US ambassador Sol Linowitz, a negotiator of the Panama Canal treaties, told reporters.

After two months of growing US economic pressure on Noriega, American officials say a deal under which the 50-year-old general will step down could be within reach.

No final agreement has been made, but the groundwork may have been laid, one administration official told Reuters.

Reagan The Washington Post reported on Friday that the Reagan administration and General Noriega reached tentative agreement that he will resign as head of the Panamanian defence forces.

But on Saturday, Noriega denied reaching an agreement to resign during talks in Panama City with Michael Kozak, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

"There is no agreement," he told reporters.

Over the past two months, US officials have said repeatedly that Noriega's ouster was imminent only to be proved wrong — to the embarrassment of the White House.

"The United States undermined its own strategy. It raised the promise of instant results," the New York Times complained in a caustic editorial last week.

Linowitz said Washington miscalculated, assuming Noriega could be forced out as readily as presidents Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti.

The difference was that Noriega was in direct control of his country's armed forces, unlike the two deposed dictators. That made it far more difficult to

remove him. In its latest play, Washington sent an envoy to Panama for secret talks last week and seemed to back off from its demand that Noriega leave the country.

"Our policy is that General Noriega must go, which means leave power," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters. "We have said we prefer to see him leave Panama but the policy... is leave power."

This was a significant concession, as US officials had been insisting publicly that Noriega's departure was essential, arguing he could pull the strings of government and continue alleged drug dealings if he stayed in Panama.

Last Wednesday, State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters: "It's nearly inconceivable you could come to any sort of an arrangement that would leave a former dictator in place. Leaving the country is the most obvious solution."

President Reagan, asked to comment recently on reports Noriega might depart for the Dominican Republic, replied: "That's not far enough."

Noriega, Panama's military chief and de facto ruler, was once a valued US intelligence "asset" on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) payroll, according to congressional investigators.

Involved

But after allegations that he was involved in the drug trade became public, Washington began seeking his ouster.

The United States tightened the screws by ending all economic and military aid in July.

In February and March, it barred US banks from transferring money to Noriega's government, blocked payment of Panama Canal fees and cut off key trade benefits.

On April 8, Reagan barred US citizens and companies from making any payments to Panama under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

These measures have created havoc in Panama, causing the poor to suffer and disrupting the country's banking system.

US officials argue the sanctions have seriously weakened Noriega, but so far he has come up with money to meet key military payrolls. Critics say Noriega should have ample sources for funds if he is backed by a South American drug cartel, as the Reagan administration claims.

Bush looks for political limelight

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): With the Republican presidential nomination assured, George Bush's big problem in the months before his party's convention is finding ways to hold the political spotlight.

The US vice-president, whose victory in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary gave him sufficient delegates to assure nomination on the first ballot, acknowledges he faces a delicate balancing act in the run-up to the August convention in New Orleans.

"As vice-president, it's important not to upstage your boss," says Bush, who intends to campaign actively in remaining primaries even though he is unopposed.

After the primary season winds up with a June 7 California contest, aides say Bush might travel abroad, possibly to Japan and China, to highlight his foreign policy expertise.

"He would like to do a foreign trip but he wants to do a trip which would be official and has some substance to it," Bush campaign spokesman Peter Teeley said.

Attacking Otherwise Bush will concentrate on a strategy for the November election campaign and attacking his Democrat opponents.

"We are not going to let Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and Rev Jesse Jackson control the playing field in terms of making news at our expense," he said.

Bush tried out some campaign themes during a two-day swing through Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana this week, denouncing the Democrats as a party favouring dangerous cuts in defence spending and vast outlays for

inefficient social programmes. The vice-president also painted Dukakis as too weak to stand up to Moscow.

"In November, we're going to have a clear choice: who has the values that we believe in, who has the experience to lead this country, who has the stability and the integrity to get the job done?" he declared.

But Bush, who often seemed awkward and ill-at-ease touring factories and job training centres — natural habitats for most campaigning American politicians — offered few specifics in discussing his own programme.

Instead, he frequently mouthed platitudes — "I'll never apologise for this country: I want to stand up and defend it" is one of his favourites — while dropping gentle hints that he would handle such issues as trade and education differently than President Reagan.

Colourless Asked by a television interviewer about his bland, colourless image, Bush quipped: "What's wrong with being a boring kind of guy?"

Bush, who expects Dukakis will be his opponent in the November election, told another interviewer he was certain he could deflect any questions about his role in the Iran-Contra scandal by challenging his rival's foreign policy credentials.

Dukakis has already raised the issue, saying on television, "I don't know what good experience is when you sit there next to the president and do nothing while we trade arms to the Ayatollah for hostages."

Bush is already being told he must sharpen his message if he wants to succeed Reagan, who is due to leave office on Jan 20, 1989, after having served the legal limit of two four-year terms.

Oppressed people have looked to Egypt

Historical haven becomes way station for refugees

By Najia Sammakia

CAIRO, (AP): Since Biblical times, the oppressed have looked to Egypt for safe haven. Today's refugees, however, simply pass through heading for greener pastures.

Many, denied refugee status under an internationally monitored system, go into hiding out of fear they will be sent home. Mahmoud Abbas, in charge of refugee affairs at the Foreign Ministry, said some turn to crime to support themselves.

Egypt is what the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees calls a "transit country." Cairo representatives of the UNHCR decide whether applicants for asylum qualify as refugees under the 1951 Geneva Convention. Egypt allows those who do to stay until they are provided permanent homes in the United States, Canada, Australia or elsewhere.

"Cairo is huge, and there is a constant flow of foreigners," said Michel Gaude, an officer at the UNHCR office. "We receive about 10 a week... mainly Ethiopian."

Sometimes young people come here hoping to reestablish in Canada or Australia and invent stories of persecution. We try to reach the truth and say no only when we're absolutely sure.

Still, official figures show that only 10-20 per cent of asylum seekers obtained refugee status from the UNHCR and Egypt last year. They joined about 1,000 already awaiting resettlement. The Foreign Ministry's Abbas estimated that 30,000 are in the country illegally after they were denied refugee status.

In Biblical times, Joseph and Mary brought the infant Jesus Christ to Egypt after King Herod ordered the slaughter of newborn males in the Jerusalem area. In this century prominent exiles found refuge in Egypt, including the late Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran in 1980 and ousted Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiri in 1985. The Shah died and was buried in Cairo.

While such people come as guests of the government, less well-placed refugees are handled according to reservations to the

refugees' convention that Egypt laid down when it signed in 1980. In general, the reservations deny refugees free education and rationed, heavily subsidised food, restricted to Egypt's constantly growing population of 54 million.

Many of the dispossessed come to escape civil war and persecution at home, mainly Ethiopia, Chad and other sub-Saharan countries. They sneak across the 315-mile-long (504-km) frontier with Sudan to the south or stow away aboard ships, jumping ship at ports in the Red Sea or the Suez Canal.

Problem Abdel-Mawla El Solh, the UNHCR's Cairo delegate, said most refugee seekers are African, but others come from "everywhere except the United States and Western Europe." And with dim prospects for peace and plenty in sub-Saharan Africa, the influx of desperate Ethiopians, Chadians, Ugandans, Zairians and others can be expected to continue.

Refugee status is granted to people fleeing political or religious persecution, but not

merely economic hardships.

"The most difficult moment is when I know my decision will immediately affect (an applicant's) fate," said the UNHCR's Gaude. "For example, if I am called to the airport I know he might be repatriated (if denied refugee status). If I have a doubt, I decide to keep him."

The Foreign Ministry's Abbas said the government's main problem is not with the official refugees but with aliens living illegally in Egypt.

"Now there are almost 30,000 who have gone underground," he said. "We are after them. They commit crimes, steal, cheat."

If they are arrested, then we try to find another transit country. Although they have harmed us, we don't send them back to their country of origin."

A senior official of the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for public order, said, however, that the aliens do not pose any threat to security through crime. He said he could not give an estimate of the number of illegal aliens.

St Andrew's United Church, an Anglican church in central

Cairo, is a favourite gathering place for Ethiopians; some of them accepted as refugees and others waiting for clearance. They sit in the church's courtyard, sunning themselves or reading mystery novels, doing odd jobs or playing football in the recreation room.

Hursh And they talk of life at home under what they describe as a harsh regime in Addis Ababa, which jails dissenters for long periods and forces them into battle against guerrillas in the northern part of the country.

Gabre Desta said he left Ethiopia because "I was going to be killed." The Ethiopian authorities suspected him of being a rebel in the northern province of Tigre because he was acquainted with a dissident from there. "He mentioned my name before being killed himself," Desta said.

Desta told of escaping hidden aboard a ship. He was discovered and thrown off into the wilderness of Egypt's Red Sea coast with the equivalent of \$10 and a loaf of bread, compliments of the captain. It took him four days to

walk to the nearest town.

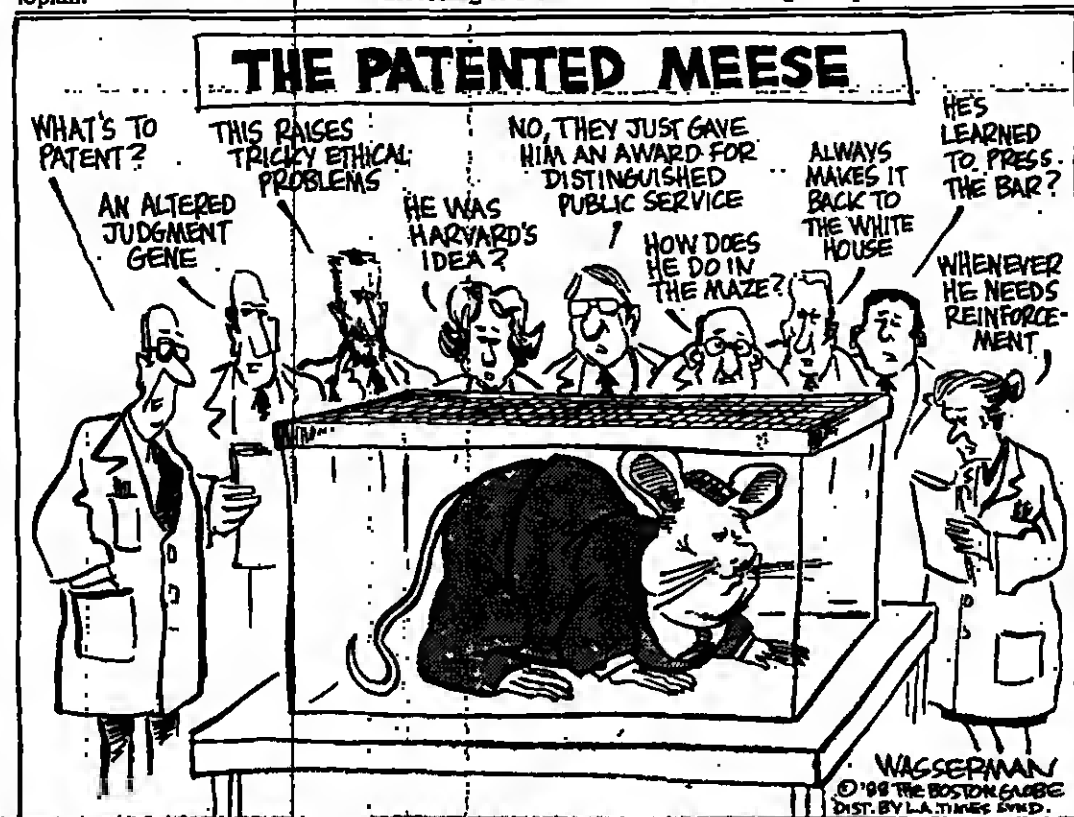
He awaits resettlement in the United States.

A friend of Desta has not been so lucky. The 19-year-old Ethiopian, who would allow the use only of his given name Ahmad, said he is in limbo, without identity papers and facing an uncertain future.

He lost his refugee status because he left Djibouti, the country where it was granted. UNHCR rules require asylum-seekers to remain where they are proclaimed refugees in order to be resettled.

"I went to a border town by truck, then on to Sudan and Egypt by foot. Forty days of walking, except for three days on a boat on the Nile," Ahmad said. He and others turn to the Refugee Ministry at St Andrew's after rejection by the UNHCR to get help with efforts to legalise their stay and eventually to be resettled.

"We continue trying to see if they really need help," said Nelly van Doorn, a Dutch volunteer at the ministry. "They're so scared they lie a lot, but when you hear the truth, it's so much worse."



Najibullah seeks new image abroad

By Earleen Fisher

KABUL, (AP): President Najibullah, a former secret police commander, is trying to polish his image abroad as he loses the Soviet military might that has propped up Afghanistan's socialist government for a decade.

His sales pitch for financial aid and political sympathy is aimed in three main directions: The United States, which has been arming the Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas fighting the Afghan Army.

India, the strongest power in the Asian subcontinent, which shares Afghan animosity toward Pakistan.

Islamic nations, which have given lip service but little in the way of arms and money to the guerrillas known as mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

Najibullah's appeal to the United States was evident last month when he addressed a group of private US citizens and Soviet academicians at the end of a week-long conference on Afghanistan.

While stressing his government's commitments to friendship with the neighbouring

Soviet Union, Najibullah professed an eagerness for political, economic, cultural — and even military — ties with the United States.

He also appeared to be playing on Iranian-US enmity, comparing the fundamentalism of the mujahideen to that of Ayatollah Khomeini's administration in Iran, which borders Afghanistan on the west.

"What would be the consequences of the emergence of another Iran in the region today?" Najibullah asked his US visitors.

He played down his government's commitment to socialism, referring at one point to "obsolete modalities of life," and emphasised what he called his encouragement of the private sector. He invited "the United States and its corporations" to invest in Afghanistan.

His economic pragmatism seemed to be an open acknowledgement that socialism is doomed among his fiercely individualistic countrymen.

Najibullah, 41, started his visit to New Delhi on Wednesday. India, like Afghanistan, is wary of a potential powerful Pakistan. And India, which is a founding member of the Non-

Aligned Movement and has a Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union, has been supportive of Najibullah's government against the Pakistani-based mujahideen.

Pakistan, wedged between India and Afghanistan, has sheltered mujahideen guerrillas and serves as their conduit for weapons supplied by the United States, China and other nations.

At an April 27 sports festival celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Afghan revolution, the seat of honour went to Najibullah, who was occupied by Sunil Dutt, an Indian movie star and member of parliament from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party.

Dutt later observed that Najib "knows how to be president." Najibullah has portrayed himself as a champion of religion, a change from his predecessor's policy toward the practice of Islam.

Government officials, when asked their priorities, routinely mention "reconstruction of the mosques" first, ahead of repatriation of refugees and rebuilding the economy. Turbanned clergymen are included in official delegations presented to foreign visitors and stops on government-organised tours

include historic mosques.

Najibullah dropped the "ullah" — a form of god — in 1986 when he replaced Babrak Karmal as general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

However, his underlings and the government-run news media now refer to him as Najibullah. The burly Najibullah, a former head of Afghanistan's KGB-style security police, also seems to be seeking a gentler personal image.

Towering over 6 feet (1.8 metres) and often described as a "bear," "bull" or "ox" of a man, he spoke more softly than he once did. His eyes crinkled with smile-wrinkles as he beamed at his listeners.

But reshaping his image will require other efforts. According to Western diplomatic sources, the rate of executions has been increasing at Pul-i-Charki prison, a circular complex on the outskirts of Kabul.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "hundreds" of inmates, mostly mujahideen, have been executed in the last three months. The sources said Pakistani and Iranian prisoners were beaten daily at Pul-i-Charki.

Few understand Northern Ireland's troubles

By Sara Terry

BELFAST: People here sometimes say, only half-jokingly, that if you understand what's wrong with Northern Ireland, there's something wrong with you.

But it is possible in the wake of the latest tragic outbreak of what locals call "the troubles" to see two trends emerging as the latest phase in the conflict. A week of interviews here with political experts, religious leaders, and local citizens reveals:

● An encouraging trend, in which politicians are talking about talking to each other: a significant step in a community marked by attitudes so deeply entrenched that communication between opposing parties often is virtually nonexistent.

In Northern Ireland, most Protestants are committed to remaining part of Britain, and most Catholics are equally devoted to a united Ireland. In part because of the province's recent violence, political parties on both sides of the Northern Ireland divide are taking tentative steps in a search for a common ground.

● A discouraging social trend, noted by many observers, including Roman Catholic Bishop Cahal Daly, toward an

emotional withdrawal on the part of many Catholics and Protestants. Both parties often feel so weary, helpless, and fed up with the violence that they say there is no point in trying to make sense of it all.

Worries

The determination to live a "normal" life is nothing new in Belfast. But what worries some observers is the emotional numbing that seems to have settled in over the past 20 years of the current conflict. It's a feeling summed up by one local Protestant woman, who says, "I'm agonised over it enough. I don't want to hear about it any more. The simple fact is there's nothing the ordinary person can do about it."

Some political observers are not dismayed by the second trend. They say that many people — especially the middle class — always have distanced themselves from the troubles, which take their toll in violence and destruction primarily in working-class neighbourhoods.

Other observers, however, lament that the public's growing emotional disengagement — including a lack of interest in politics — is developing as political parties show signs of

engaging with each other.

"This is definitely a new chapter" in the conflict, says Paul Arthur, a political scientist with contacts among political secular leaders in the Protestant community.

For the first time in the history of Northern Ireland, he says, political parties (those identifying themselves as British and advocating continued union with Britain) realise they can no longer count on Britain's unquestioning support.

Relationships

That realisation has come, says Arthur, in the wake of a 2-1/2-year-old Unionist campaign to shake the British government's commitment to the Anglo-Irish accord — a controversial agreement signed in 1985 between Britain and Ireland. The Unionists have failed in their efforts to have the accord shelved.

"The scales have come off the Unionists' eyes," Arthur says. "They know they can't count on the British any longer. So they are beginning to ask themselves, 'What sort of relationships can we have in Northern Ireland and within the entire island (including the Republic of Ireland and the south)?"

Peter Robinson is a hard-line Unionist and deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). He and some other Unionist leaders show willingness to talk with the Catholic nationalist party, the Social Democratic and Liberal Party (SDLP), without the normally stated precondition of the dismantling of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

At the same time, leaders of the SDLP have met with leaders of Sinn Fein, the legal political arm of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA). The IRA wages terrorist violence in its campaign to unite the six counties of Northern Ireland with the 26 counties of the South. SDLP and Sinn Fein are reported to be in search of common ground for their mutual aspirations of a united Ireland.

According to Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness, the various parties remain poles apart in their aims and aspirations. But political and religious leaders welcome any possibility of talks. When there is communication, they say, both sides are at least a bit more likely to slowly move from the entrenched attitudes that have made this conflict seem so intractable.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Clouds hang over Seoul Olympic Games

By Edward A. Olsen

CALIFORNIA: The 1988 Winter Olympics are history. They were not particularly successful for the United States, but overall the Calgary Olympics portrayed Canada admirably. The sports world's attention now shifts with anticipation toward the summer Olympics in Seoul. More important, the entire world's focus will soon be on the South Korean capital, with some trepidation.

The summer Games are to be held in a nation subject to far greater pressures than Canada. Most South Koreans relish the prospect of the Olympics. They are eager for the international spotlight to shine on them so that their economic, and other, accomplishments will receive the credit nationalistic South Koreans feel is their due.

If all goes well, Seoul hopes its Olympics will put the Republic of Korea on the map as a major country and rid it of its outdated image of a war-torn country that was perpetuated unjustly by the "M.A.S.H." TV series. Despite these high hopes, however, there are reasons for South Koreans to be uneasy about the Olympics' effect on them.

Three potential clouds hang over the summer Olympics. By far the most ominous is the dark shadow cast by North Korea. Seoul's selection as an Olympic venue raised questions at the onset, stemming from the wisdom of holding the events in a bitterly divided nation.

Despite hopes that the Games might provide an incentive for North-South Korean cooperation, that has not been realized. Instead, there are ample signs that North Korea may try to disrupt the Games. Pyongyang's alleged involvement in the November 1987 bombing of a Korean Air Lines plane, with heavy loss of life, remains a major concern. If North Korea cannot be induced to take part in — or obstruct — the Games, the Seoul Olympics will, at the very least, be far more tense than Calgary's.

North Korea has an array of choices with which to disrupt the Games. An overt attack on the South is possible, but it's unlikely because of the inherent costs for the North from South Korea and US retaliation. An indirect "attack" — in the form of terrorism or clandestine support for South Korean unrest — is more conceivable, but still unlikely.

Retaliation Pyongyang's track record for discreetly carrying out such endeavours is dismal. If it were discovered again, retaliation against North Korea could be very costly to it. The North Koreans need not, however, actually commit hostile acts to disrupt the Games. Were North Korea to engage in large-scale preparations for war in the form of military exercises near the Olympic sites, it would arouse countervailing defence mobilisation in the South. It does not take much insight to imagine the chilling effect such war scares would have on international enthusiasm for attending the Olympics. As long as Pyongyang does not provoke retaliation against it, such manoeuvres could have a devastating effect on the Seoul Olympics.

As though that very dark cloud were not sufficiently unsettling, Seoul also faces the real prospect of domestic political unrest before and during the Olympics. Though South

Korea's new President, Roh Tae Woo, is off to a generally good start, he faces real problems. His conservative cabinet appointments, and smaller-than-anticipated release of political prisoners, has already stimulated his opponents' anger.

Consensus Despite Roh's positive approach to achieving a greater degree of political consensus within South Korea's contentious body politic, he confronts the prospect of continued opposition, which could become difficult to control.

Coverage at Calgary of Indian land rights protests tarnished slightly the aura of the Winter Olympics, but this was minor compared with the potential for damaging publicity in Seoul. If South Korea's domestic political problems escalate again in the glare of Olympic media coverage, the Games could give South Korea a public relations black eye.

Perseverence, the third "dark cloud" is now obscured by the bright atmospheres surrounding the Games. Assuming North Korea is not disruptive, and negative coverage of domestic politics is minimised, Seoul clearly expects to reap a harvest of positive publicity.

The trouble with this expectation is that there is a strong possibility of overkill. A couple of weeks of upbeat descriptions of great South Korean economic successes could easily backfire in Seoul at a time when US-South Korean trade frictions are mounting. Most Americans, who do not hold a solid image of South Korea in their minds, are likely to internalize an excessively positive picture of South Korea as a prosperous economic dynamo.

This could be too much of a good thing for Seoul. Excessive coverage of South Korean prosperity could mesh all too well with the trade rhetoric embodied by the so-called \$48,000 Hyundai. In short, under certain circumstances, South Korea's Olympic imagery shortly before the US elections could become a factor in US politics, much to the consternation of Seoul.

None of these three possibilities are pleasant to contemplate. All make the success of the Summer Olympics less predictable. US athletes almost certainly will do better in Seoul than Calgary. But the prospects for the Games, and their impact on South Korea, and their influence on the US hold reason for concern. Everything possible should be done to minimise the potential for disruption, or these games could be more infamous than famous.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1703 — British under Duke of Marlborough occupy electorate of Cologne and subsequently take Bonn while Savoy's Prince Eugene conducts campaign in Rhineland and southern Germany.
- 1777 — US cruiser Surprise captures British ship Prince of Orange in English Channel.
- 1821 — British African Company is dissolved because of heavy expense, and Sierra Leone, Gambia and Gold Coast are taken over by British government to form British West Africa.
- 1848 — Polish rebels surrender after Prussian troops crush insurrection in Warsaw.
- 1915 — Germans sink British liner Lusitania off Irish coast, and more than 1,000 people perish.
- 1943 — Allied forces take Tunis and Bizerte, and Germans retire to Cap Bon Peninsula in World War II.
- 1954 — Dien Bien Phu is lost by French forces to North Vietnamese.
- 1970 — Somalia nationalises all foreign oil companies and banks.
- 1971 — United States removes all controls on use of dollars in US transactions with China.
- 1987 — Austria's President Kurt Waldheim, alleged to have Nazi past, empowers state prosecutor's office to take legal action for slander against head of world Jewish Congress.

Liverpool University offers a unique course

Pop music in a class of its own

By David Thomas

THE month: June. The Scene: The Examination Halls, Liverpool University.

A nervous group of students are awaiting the start of their University Finals.

The invigilator reads out the rules of the examination: "Students are reminded that they may only use the tapes and Walkmen provided by the examiners."

Their own ghetto-blasters and compact-disc systems are strictly forbidden within the confines of this hall and will be confiscated.

They are also reminded that both humming and singing are forbidden as they can distract other examiners.

"Now, put on your headphones. You may begin."

Exam

The students scan down the questions on the exam paper, searching for an easy one with which to begin.

Question One: "Summer-time and the living is easy." Discuss this statement with reference to both economic and climatic conditions.

Question Two: Compare and contrast these two observations:

(a) "To be or not to be, that is the question" (William Shakespeare).

(b) "I Just Don't know What To Do With Myself" (Dusty Springfield).

Question Three: Why can't I get satisfaction? These do not look like ordinary exam questions. But then this will be no ordinary exam. For next year, Liverpool University will be offering students a unique option: a one-year course in Pop Music.

Vice

As yet the subject is only planned as one part of a music or arts degree. It will not be possible to become a Doctor of Rock, nor a Bachelor of Boogie.

Nevertheless, the course will



Academic exercise or entertainment? Roy Orbison, Dusty Springfield and Little Richard classics will be studied by music students at Liverpool University, England.

allow students to make an academic virtue out of a social vice. In the old days, sitting around, playing records and having pretentious conversations about music was what you did when you couldn't face writing your essay on the Foreign Policy of Louis XIV. Now it's a form of revision.

The man responsible for turning Mike Reid's Pop Quiz into a university discipline is David Horn, who is currently a librarian at Exeter University.

Horn, who is 45, neatly describes his tastes as running "from country-blues to Deacon Blue." Ever since he first heard the Beatles he has found that music "helps you keep sane when there are confounding pressures all around."

"You could be forgiven for thinking of me as an ageing 'beatnik', he confesses. But he remains convinced that popular music is a reasonable subject for academic investigation.

"After all, he maintains, the development of blues and jazz was crucial to the history of black America. Even now, music plays a part in the politics of South Africa and Central America.

And, closer to home, the generations that have grown up since the war have been hugely affected by the rock 'n' roll of their youth.

Even the strange brew of musicians, businessmen and hangers-on that make up the contemporary music industry are, he says, worthy of study; "It's a kind of anthropology—like understanding how a remote tribe operates."

That much is true; your average record company executive has quite a lot in common with a head-hunting cannibal. But what of the music itself—surely that can't deserve the attentions of dons and undergraduates?

Liverpool University maintains that it does. Their line, as expressed by the head of their Music Department, Professor Michael Talbot, is that pop is neither better nor worse than classical music. It is simply different.

That also seems fair enough. Beethoven's Ninth may be a bit more sophisticated than Roy Orbison's Pretty Woman, but it's not as much fun as the office Christmas Party. There is a time for the Dying Swan and there's a time for the Funky Chicken.

But the study of pop music is fatally flawed as an academic enterprise. In the first place, the whole point of pop is to escape for convention and authority.

Little Richard did not yell "A-wop-bop-a-loo-bop-a-wop-bam-boom" because he wanted someone 30 years later to use it as the basis for a Ph.D.

And "Wild thing, you make my heart sing, you make everything... groovy," is hardly susceptible to in-depth poetical investigation. But it's brilliant rock 'n' roll.

Sterility

The moment that you start to theorise about something as spontaneous as pop, you run the risk of astronomical pretentiousness. And you threaten the music itself with the sort of self-conscious sterility that the study of creative writing has inflicted on the modern novel.

What makes matters worse is that the academics are almost bound to get it wrong. Anyone—a be they parent or teacher—who has got to an age where they can be cool and objective about pop has inevitably lost any real connection and with what is going on in the minds and lives of its teenage consumers.

The best thing for the dons to do is stick to the study of dead people. That way they can't get in the way of current creativity.

And if their pet theories are a bit of a load of bunkum, there's no one around who can inconveniently point out what really happened.

In the meantime, I think we should be content with the words of a certain Michael Jagger, who once remarked, "I know, it's only rock 'n' roll. But I like it."

S. Express are No. 1 in UK again

Terence Trent D'Arby tops US charts

NEW YORK: Terence Trent D'Arby dipped into his Wishing Well and turned up at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States.

The hit disc moved up from second place a week ago on the Cash Box magazine chart. Whitney Houston's Where Do Broken Hearts Go slipped from No. 1 to second position, and Aerosmith's Angel hopped up one notch to third.

Last week's No. 3 hit, Devil Inside by Inxs, topped to sixth spot.

Vaulting onto the ten top pop list, up from 14th to 9th, was always On My Mind by the Pet Shop Boys. The week's only other newcomer to the list was Naughty Girls (Need Love Too) by Samantha Fox, up from 13th to 10th.

As for the country-and-western singles, Eddy Raven took over the top of the Cash Box magazine chart with I'm Gonna Get You. Hank Williams Jr. was second with Young Country, and Highway

101 was third with Cry, Cry, Cry.

Top Ten US

The ten top singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Wishing Well — Terence Trent D'Arby (Columbia)
2. (1) Where Do Broken Hearts Go — Whitney Houston (Arista)
3. (4) Angel — Aerosmith (Geffen)
4. (6) Anything For You — Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine (Epic)
5. (7) Pink Cadillac — Natalie Cole (EMI-Manhattan)
6. (3) Devil Inside — Inxs (Atlantic)
7. (5) Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean (Jive-Arista)
8. (14) Always on my Mind — Pet Shop Boys (EMI-Manhattan)
9. (13) Naughty Girls (Need Love Too) — Samantha Fox (Jive)
10. (12) True Heart — The Oak Ridge Boys (MCA)

And in London, the British group S. Express held a number one spot in the British top 10 pop chart for a second straight week with the rap song Theme From S. Express.

tations in brackets:

1. (3) I'm Gonna Get You — Eddy Raven (RCA)
2. (5) Young Country — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Brother-Curb)
3. (1) Cry, Cry, Cry — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers)
4. (6) Baby I'm Yours — Steve Wariner (MCA)
5. (8) Eighteen Wheels and a Dozen Roses — Kathy Mattea (Mercury-Polygram)
6. (9) The Factory — Kenny Rogers (RCA)
7. (2) It's Such a Small World — Rodney Crowell, and Rosanne Cash (Columbia)
8. (11) Old Foks — Ronnie Millap and Mike Reid (RCA)
9. (10) If My Heart Had Windows — Patty Loveless (MCA)
10. (12) True Heart — The Oak Ridge Boys (MCA)

Hazell Dean moved to second place with Who's Leav-

ing Who and Danny Wilson got to third with Mary's Prayer.

This week's only newcomer to the top 10 was Fairground Attraction, in ninth place with Perfect.

Top Ten UK

The top ten singles, as listed by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's placings in parentheses:

1. (1) Theme From S. Express — S. Express (Rhythm King)
2. (4) Who's Leaving Who — Hazell Dean (PWL)
3. (6) Mary's Prayer — Danny Wilson (Virgin)
4. (5) Pink Cadillac — Natalie Cole (Manhattan)
5. (2) Heart — Pet Shop Boys (Parlophone)
6. (7) I Want You Back '88 — Michael Jackson and The Jackson Five (Motown)
7. (8) I Want You Back — Bananarama (London)
8. (9) One More Try — George Michael (Epic)
9. (12) Perfect — Fairground Attraction (RCA)
10. (13) Love Changes Everything — Climie Fisher (EMI)

By Paul Luke

TORONTO, (Reuters): Robert Plant, who swaggered through a 12-year career with Led Zeppelin as lead singer and sex object, is trying a subtler approach as a solo artist.

To Plant, the release of his fourth album, Now and Zen, means he has finally crawled out from under Led Zeppelin's musical shadow.

"It's another move away from 'Stairway To Heaven', Plant said, citing a well-known Led Zeppelin song.

"A lot of people thought I was like some guy out of Pink Floyd or Deep Purple and that I was really going through the motions... it couldn't be further from the truth."

Plant, who wrote sexually suggestive lyrics for Led Zeppelin and sang them onstage in tight jeans and open shirts, said he was reaching for a subtler style.

"The last thing I want to do is become a grandfather and still be talking about 'squeeze my

Crawling away from the Zeppelin shadow

lemon," he told a recent news conference, referring to words from an early Led Zeppelin song. "There are other ways of putting it."

Plant said he was in a hurry to re-form the group with guitarist Jimmy Page.

"For me to go back and team up with Jimmy would be a bit of a contradiction because I don't want to be heralded just on the strength of being part of the old regime," he said. "This is better than anything I could do with him, unless he really did what I told him."

With greater self-confidence and a substantial solo repertoire, Plant said he had sufficiently distanced himself from Led Zeppelin that he can play his material at a concert.

"I'm pretty cocky at the moment," Plant said from ben-

cham highlighted blond curls. "In my attempts to separate my career from the period of Led Zeppelin, I got so self-analytical I just pulled myself to pieces."

Between swings of mineral water, Plant said he was not troubled by the fact that many in his current audiences are too young to have known Led Zeppelin.

"There is a good cross-section of people but a lot of them are young people and especially young women now," he said. "In the Led Zeppelin days, it was predominantly a male audience, which was quite disturbing for Jimmy and myself, especially somewhere in North Carolina when there was nowhere to go at night."

Led Zeppelin, which released 10 million-selling albums, was

formed in Britain in 1968 and dissolved in 1980 following drummer John Bonham's alcohol-related death.

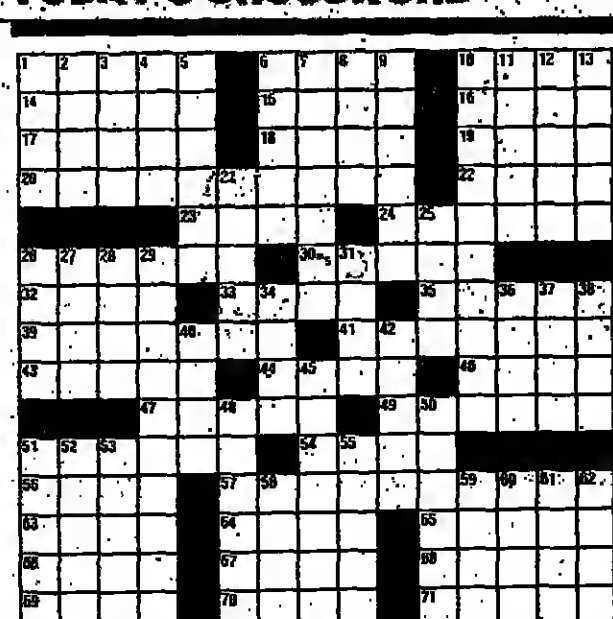
In addition to enjoying huge commercial success, the group continues to influence many other heavy metal rock bands, which copy Plant's high-pitched howls, Page's guitar licks and Bonham's thunderous drumming style.

Led Zeppelin, which also included bassist John Paul Jones, is best known for such songs as 'Stairway To Heaven', 'Rock and Roll', 'Whole Lotta Love' and 'Kashmir'.

Plant's said his far-flung musical tastes range from Gene Vincent, an idol of his youth, through Middle Eastern music to mid-60s psychedelia and, more recently, groups such as Rem and This Mortal Coil.

He said he was eager to penetrate the college market because university students were still passionate about raw forms of music, unlike people his own age.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Elephant in children's books
 - Cutting tool
 - Distillate
 - Byrd book
 - Hammerhead
 - Mammoth
 - ballarina Kaye
 - Exalted birds
 - Hooked nail
 - Construction beam
 - Partially dressed
 - Entertain
 - majesty
 - White poplars
 - Lounger
 - Fled-a—
 - Wallaroo
 - Froze
 - See 26 Across
 - Addition
 - Explainer
 - Vibrate
 - Talented
 - Grafted, in heraldry
 - Tree resin
 - Inclined
 - Like some expense accounts
 - Dance for the grad class
 - Bread spread
 - In one swell foop, e.g.
 - Pole, e.g.
 - Raines of film
 - Turning machine
 - Elegance
 - Type of limestone
 - "— Dream" Lohengrin
 - Old or young follower
 - Spanish
- DOWN**
- Bulls and Bears
 - Meager
 - Kirghiz mountain range
 - Arthurian knight
 - Ancient Egyptian symbol of life
 - Car dealer's bread-and-butter
 - Orbital point
 - Decrease seriously
 - Fervor
 - Make beloved
 - Extremely sharp
 - Prized prize
 - Harangue
 - Goods
 - Politbureau member of Stalin's day
 - Camembert's cousin
 - Grasslands
 - Nacklace
 - 28 Ancient chest
 - Cama across with
 - H. James biographer
 - Fresh water mollusk
 - Supply
 - 37 Cigar and?
 - Symbol of slowness
 - River in Zaire
 - Nobla gas
 - Having directly opposite views
 - Ford models
 - Egg'dish
 - Couriers
 - Bestow
 - American Revolutionary diplomat
 - Heat to excess
 - Ballet bend
 - Breathing sound
 - "— boy!"
 - Counterfitted
 - Muddia

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

GAFFES SLAP AFAIR
AGILE PLICA SANO
MARATHONER LISTS
UTE TOTE ARETES
TESTER RELIEF
URNS SLIPONS
TIEFS HATES OIL
ANAT CAMEL IDLE
ROC ROVER CASED
ANEMONE SLOG
VIENNA ELOPER
GRANDIE BAND EME
AULD CROSSWORDS
BLUE TOUT ASSET
SEED SETA REEDS

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

Neither vulnerable, West deals.

NORTH
♦ Q
♥ A Q J 7 6 2
♦ A 7
♠ A 8 5 3

WEST
♦ K 10 7 6 5 3 ♦ 4 2
♥ K 10 9 5 ♥ 8
♦ K 4 ♦ Q J 9 5
♠ Q ♠ J 10 9 7 6 4

SOUTH
♦ A J 9 8
♥ 4 3
♦ 10 8 6 3 2
♠ K 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 NT
2 ♣ Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
We have a natural tendency not to spend more than is necessary to win a trick. But false economy can prove wasteful, as this hand from the European Cup Women's Championship proves.

North's bid of two hearts showed extra values and at least a five-card heart suit. When South persisted

with no trump, North felt that his queen of spades and trick-taking potential merited going on to game.

The fourth-best spade was the usual lead. Most declarers won the trick with dummy's queen, came to hand with the king of clubs and took a successful heart finesse. Since they had no way to return to hand, they cashed the ace of hearts, and were doomed when that suit broke 4-1.

One of the very few declarers to bring home her contract was Elizabeth Hugon of France, who finished third in the event. Since the bidding virtually marked West for the king of hearts, she elected to protect against a bad heart split at a very small price—at trick one, she won in hand by overtaking dummy's queen with her ace!

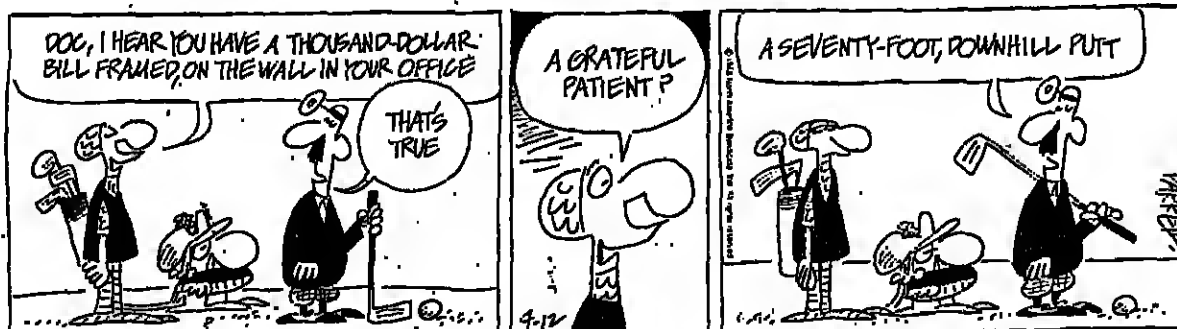
Now she was able to take an immediate heart finesse, then later return to hand with the king of clubs to repeat the heart finesse. As a result, she had to surrender only one heart trick to set up the suit, and West had no damaging return when in with the king of hearts. In all, declarer collected one spade, five hearts, one diamond and two clubs.



"When I said I wanted heavy-duty shocks, I didn't mean the bill."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Try to make sure you get the routine done in the morning leaving the afternoon and evening free for leisure activities. You should make sure you do not do anything that might upset your partner.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be able to do something a little different and the influence of Venus and Mercury will help you do your way. You should make sure you do not take anything for granted just now.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

This is a good time to do something of a personal nature. You should try not to get on anyone's nerves. Think once again before getting down to doing things. Be less belligerent.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

The moon's influence is less favorable and you should watch your step. You should try to avoid doing anything very much out of the ordinary. Do not just hope for the best or trust to luck. Be flexible.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You will be able to do something a little different and the influence of Venus and Mercury will help you do your way. You should make sure you do not take anything for granted just now.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should not be in quite such a hurry. Avoid doing anything that would be considered to be tactless. You should put personal affairs first today.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

Avoid succumbing to negative thoughts nor is there any good reason to be gloomy. You should spend some of the day tidying up about the house. Make sure you do not eat or drink more than you know you ought. Be moderate.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

After a lousy start all will go smoothly today. You should not expect others to do just what you would like them to do. Make room for a few changes in your life. Be considerate.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will find it easier to relax and avoid conflicts. You should continue to try to keep things simple. You should go out of your way to please your partner. Be cordial.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

The moon's favorable influence will help you to do what you set out to. Before you set out on a journey you would do well to read a guidebook and look at a map. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be adaptable.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will tend to feel rather too pleased with yourself. You will be able to make a few changes for the better. Make sure you do not take on any obligations you would find it hard to meet. Be tolerant.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the
Arab Times

Bombay movie Moguls see green and red

Film industry booms in Bengal

UNLIKE other places in India where the film business is undergoing a big slump, it is booming and growing in West Bengal. A recent visit to Calcutta revealed that people are still crazy about seeing movies at theatres as in the good old days. There are long queues for booking and House Full boards are not an unusual sight.

The Bengali film Gura Dakshina, is breaking all records and speeding towards its 25th silver jubilee week. It has already grossed a bill of rupees two and a half crores. There are 27 prints running, when normally about 6 or 7 are taken out for a regional film. Advance booking remained full for twelve weeks and thereafter too, all the daily shows are running to packed houses. It is making the Bombay movie moguls see green and red, as their new Hindi films are not doing even half of that business.

Other Bengali films like Amar Sanghi and Bon Mas have also done tremendous business. This has come as a surprise to the film trade all over India except perhaps Bihar, where cinema is also thriving and which actually falls part of the Eastern circuit. Why are the audiences still so big in Bengal and around? There could be many reasons. These are essentially poor regions with thick populations. Not many people own videos or even TV sets. The video parlour has also not developed as a popular outlet. So, after a hard day's work, people prefer to see their movie fare on the big screen, at times with the family. Moreover, the admission



Tapas Paul and Aparna Sen in a new Bengali film Doktor Priya.

rates are not so high and theatres are fairly comfortable as well as centrally located. Lots of concessions are given to Bengali and Bhojpuri films. The West Bengal government has sponsored many movies. Now it has also opened a colour laboratory called Rangayan and a beautiful film complex named Nandan by Satyajit Ray. Bengalis and Biharis also have inculcated a theatre-going habit from the days of the folk arts like the jatra and nautanki. Even now they crowd to see strange dramas, and film stars like Aparna Sen or Soumitra Chatterjee regularly act in them.

thrice a week.

The new Bengali films do have some Bombay element, usually a star who is a reject from Hindi films. Vijayeta Pandit stars with Prasanna (son of Biswajet) in Amar Sanghi. Rameshwari is the heroine of two new releases Boka Samai and Pratigastha. Anup Jalota has acted and sung in Kalankini Nayika. And the big attraction in the super hit Gura Dakshina is Bappi Lahiri's musical score. The most popular Bengali stars are Ranjit Mukherjee, Tapas Paul, Satabdi Roy, Chiranjeev, Debasree, Moon Moon and Victor Banerjee.

Director Anjan Choudhury who also gave a new life to Bengali cinema with the hit Shatra is also the brain behind Gura Dakshina. It is a routine musical film, as illogical and gimmicky as a Hindi film. But its drama has the element of revenge and revolt against social tyranny. Surprisingly, the active avenger is an elder character played by Ranjit Mukherjee, and not the hero Tapas Paul, who remains dumb, as he is under a strange oath given to his teacher that he will not sing. This creates lots of complications in his own house as well as with the rich girl

whom he loves but whose family humiliates him.

Bappi Lahiri has turned away from his disco stuff and has composed typically Bengali music, except for one or two songs. The discs have proved extremely popular. Normally there is no video piracy of regional films. But for Gura Dakshina an official cassette has been issued and the producers' association keeps publishing warnings that action will be taken on those using illegal video tapes.

All this success has led to the launching of several new Bengali films. Studios are humming and the scene looks cheerful. Bombay's Sudha Chandran has been signed for two films, apart from Moushmi Chatterjee, Tanuja, Raakhee and others. Asha Bhonsale has recorded songs for Tarun Majumdar's new film Agamoo. Another film boasts of Kishore Kumar's last song.

Sensation

The biggest sensation is Mithun starting his own Bengali film. He began his career as a junior actor in Calcutta. Now he is extremely popular there. Producer Shakti Samanta is busy with yet another Hindi-Bengali venture produced from Bombay.

But serious observers of the scene deplore all this activity, as a drift towards the commercial formula of Hindi films and loss of the pristine charm of the province itself, which once created an entire art film movement. Now, Satyajit Ray is not medically fit to work. He only keeps receiving laurels for past works like a title from the French government, an



Bombay star Vijayeta Pandit and Bengal's Prasanna (left) in the film Amar Sanghi.

appearance on B.B.C.'s TV network and a book cum film on him by Shyam Benegal. Poor Mrinal Sen is not getting a financier after the costly debacle of Genesis. He spends time lecturing students or presiding over functions. Buddhadeb Dasgupta's Phara was sent to the Berlin film festival but drew a blank. Now there are some hopes on Gautam's Ghosh's Amarjali Jatra. Aparna Sen's Sati is stranded due to problems. Perhaps it may never be made.

However, the Hindi box-office-films and the N.R.I. imports are doing big business in Calcutta. Though the runs are short, there are huge profits as the theatres are very big. There are also many curbs, like censorship on film posters and ads, not found in any other state. Recently, the police arrested distributors who displayed obscene visuals or words. But all the coveted nudity can be seen in the films



Ranjit Mukherjee, the most popular star in W. Bengal.

themselves, as they are passed by central government's censor board and the Bengal state has no power over it. So Ursula Andress undressed herself to the cinegoer's content in

Loaded Guns. In another film Hold Up, when the power failed, the public came out and damaged the theatre. The show indeed goes on "house-full" in Calcutta.

Veteran star Kamini Kaushal visits Lahore

Home sweet home



Kamini Kaushal (inset) and above with fans at Lahore's Kinnaird College for Women

hosted a party in honour of Kamini and her husband, B.S. Sood, where they met a number of prominent TV and film personalities.

Kamini, also visited the Government College where they have named a laboratory after her father.

The most exciting experience was visiting her old home. People living there were nice and

hospitable. They still had a dining table which once belonged to her family.

A day before she returned to Bombay, she slipped off quietly and visited her old house a second time and roamed around the vast compound. A part of it is now occupied by a multi-storied building. It was like reliving the past. During the 10 days that she was in

Lahore, Kamini felt as if time had stood still for her.

The Soods stayed at the home of industrialist Javed Zia and his wife, Kausar, also an ex-Kinnaird student. Kamini said: "They thoroughly spoil us."

After her return from Lahore Kamini has been asking herself, "where are the barriers between people?"

Behind the Screen

Poonam Dhillon is sliding down the Hindi film scale. The sure sign is that she has started acting in language films in the South. Her first in Madras is a Kannada film Yuddha Kani. Her hero is not Sunny or Anil but Ravichandran of the South.

Amitabh and Tinnu Anand did not want to carry on the fight for the title Sack held by Vinod Pande. So the new name is Mala Azaad Hoon which suits Amit better, as it is hero-oriented, especially since the heroine is Shabana Azmi.

Shashi Kapoor had to show his side of the investment in the Indo-Soviet venture Ajooba before the Russians start pouring in their money. But he had not enough backing. So he tried the save expenses by filming two to three songs on the same set by making small changes in it. But what if the Soviet side does not like the production values resulting from such economy. As it is, the Russian co-director has not liked the way the shots were taken in India, to be used in both versions.

Mohsin Khan has a problem

of avoiding all parties etc. where Sharmistha Sinha may also be present. It is because of his wife Reena Roy's old connections. Similarly, Vinod Mehra is scared of going to any place where ex-wife Bindya may make an appearance with tough new hubby J. P. Dutta. The two act so lovey-dovey that they even beat Vinod Mehra and his new fourth wife.

The latest publicity stunt on the TV serial Ramayana is another anecdote from some obscure place. It is said that a bride's party arrived by train for marriage and got down at a station. They had to quickly reach the wedding venue. But there were no coolies around to carry the luggage, as they were all watching Ramayana. The girl's father went to complain to the station master but he was also watching the serial and asked him to wait. A call to the local police commissioner brought the same result. The girl's father being a government servant at last phoned the railway minister in Delhi. But the reply was the same: "Wait for some time, he is watching the serial Ramayana."



Poonam going downhill

Following in Amitabh's footsteps is the female No. 1 Sri Devi. If Amit can have security guards protecting him, Sri must have them too. This is more so after her decision to join Congress-1. But film people are reading other meanings in the

smart armed men surrounding her. It is due to Sri Devi's fear of being molested, as it recently happened in the lift of a 5-star hotel. Or it may be a status symbol to shape her as a future politician. Or it could be the more simple reason of keeping Mithun away from her.



Sri Devi (right) with Mithun. Does she need security guards to keep him at bay?

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIMPOPLITEAL CYST A PAINFUL,
FLUID-FILLED SAC AT A JOINT

QUESTION: What is a popliteal cyst and how is it treated?

ANSWER: Popliteal cysts are painful, fluid-filled sacs which form where joints come together. Most frequently they occur behind the knee, but are also found in other areas where there are freely movable joints such as the bend of the arm, shoulder, hip and neck.

Usually associated with either joint-destroying diseases (such as arthritis and gout) or injury to the affected area, popliteal cysts are caused when the protective covering around a joint spills out into the space between the joint and the surface skin. In a way it's like a giant blister, only it doesn't go away so easily.

Unlike a blister which eventually dries up, popliteal cysts grow hard and tough, sometimes blocking off the flow of liquid in or out. In most cases, cortisone injected into the joint along with rest will reduce the pain and swelling and lead to a successful cure. If the cyst is persistent or very large, surgery may be required.

QUESTION: My eyelids are red and crusty. What is it and how can it be treated?

ANSWER: Sounds like blepharitis, an inflammation of the edge of the eyelid, usually caused by bacteria. There is often a feeling of something in the eye, such as a speck of dust might provoke. Symptoms include: red, puffy eyelids, sore eye, crusting of skin at the base of eyelashes, recurring redness of eye or eyelid, frequent sties, burning of eyes and the eyelids sticking together in morning. Many people with "dry eyes" have this chronic inflammation of the lid margins. A visit to the physician is important because untreated blepharitis can result in serious complications which eventually may endanger your vision.

Treatment controls blepharitis. Use warm compresses, wash the eyelid carefully with a cotton-tipped applicator, and apply prescribed ointment to the affected area. Warm compresses must be used for a minimum of five minutes to loosen the crusted skin and dirt, which then must be washed away. Avoid letting particles of crust get in the eye and be careful not to strike the eye with the applicator. When you apply the ointment, some of it may get in the eye, but it's usually

all right. Here's one time when following your doctor's advice exactly will most certainly pay off.

ACROSS MY DESK: One of the theories about the causes of diabetes is that it results from the action of your own immune system and is an autoimmune disease. A recent report at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons held in Winnipeg, Canada, by Drs. John Dupre and Calvin Siller of the University of Western Ontario, seem to support that theory. In a long-term study of 188 patients within six weeks of their developing the need for insulin, to whom the drug cyclosporin was given, the diabetes was brought under control, and the need for insulin reduced, in a significant number of patients. Cyclosporin is an effective medication used to suppress the action of the immune system and frequently is used in organ transplantation. Although there are many problems with this therapy, including side effects, it provides an avenue of exploration for treating newly developed cases of diabetes in the future.

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Pressure is mounting on Wall Street

US job data may pose rate dilemma for Fed

WASHINGTON, May 6. (Reuters) The Federal Reserve could soon face a dilemma: raise interest rates while financial markets are still jittery, or hold back and risk its reputation as an anti-inflation fighter, economists and market analysts said yesterday.

A string of statistics showing a surprisingly strong recovery in the economy has put pressure on the Fed to make a pre-emptive move against inflation if the economy's employment report for May shows a further tightening of the labour market.

Financial businesses have only hired a million workers this year, and economists estimate that another 250,000 jobs were created last month.

Most economists assume that,

barring an exceptionally weak employment report, the Fed will tighten its grip on credit to prevent the economy from overheating.

"It's inevitable that they will do something. The question is how aggressive they will be," said Steve Slifer, an economist with Shearson Hutton Lehman Inc in New York.

A lot rides this election year on how Fed chairman Alan Greenspan will answer that question.

Economists say Greenspan needs to raise short-term interest rates high enough to allay the bond markets' fear of inflation and thus halt the recent rise in long-term interest rates, which are crucial for business investment and housing.

Thirty-year bond yields have risen steadily in recent weeks and

are now around 9.1 per cent, the year's high.

But if Greenspan clamped down on credit too drastically, bank lending rates would rise, consumer spending would be squeezed and the economy, now in its 66th consecutive month of growth, could be headed for a tumble by November's election.

Greenspan is expected to initially raise the important Fed funds rate, the rate on overnight bank loans, to seven per cent or so far the current range of 6-3/4 to 7-7/8.

But some Fed staffers say more urgent steps are needed, including a possible increase in the six per cent discount rate, the fee the Fed charges banks for emergency loans.

The Fed raised the Fed funds

rate by about a quarter point in March, but the move was far too small to cool the economy, one official said.

Although a discount rate increase is unlikely just yet, the very fact that it is being discussed underscores the Central Bank's concern about inflation, officials said.

Policy

Chief White House economist and sometime Fed critic Beryl Sprinkel was asked by reporters on Wednesday how he would react to a discount rate increase. Far from dismissing the idea, Sprinkel said it would not unduly bother him as long as the Fed kept the money supply growing at a moderate pace.

Expectations of tighter monetary policy have been fuelled by fighting talk recently from Fed

officials, who insisted that current inflation of 3-1/2 to four per cent is too high.

Officials do not fear runaway inflation, but they worry that prices will creep up insidiously and get built into the economy's wage and cost structure. By that time, it would be too late to get the inflation genie back in the bottle.

Survey

With many industries running flat out to meet booming export orders as well as a rebound in domestic consumer spending since October's stock market crash, evidence is pouring in that firms are using the opportunity to raise prices.

A nationwide Fed survey of business conditions, released on Wednesday, said respondents were "concerned about higher

materials prices, especially for steel, paper, plastics and aluminium."

While a rise in the psychologically important discount rate might dampen inflation, the Fed must be acutely aware that the last rise in the rate, on September 4, was cited as a reason for the stock market crash.

It would tend to make Greenspan uneasy, said David Jones of Ashby & Landon and Company Inc. moreover, an increase carries "excess political baggage" in an election year.

All six Fed board members were appointed by President Reagan.

Consequently, Jones expects the Fed to play safe and opt for a series of modest tightening steps instead of an abrupt discount rate rise.

China to boost food production

THE incomes and living standards of about 115,000 households in China will increase through a project that will convert some of the country's coastal lowlands and shoals in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces for production of shrimp, edible seaweed and other "maricultural" foods.

The World Bank is supporting the project with a \$40 million loan and its concessional lending facilities. The International Development Association (IDA) is providing a credit of SDR 44 million (\$60 million).

China has about 1.3 million hectares of coastal lowlands that could be used for mariculture.

The project will provide funds to several Chinese lending institutions which will issue loans to people who will develop some of these shallow and swampy areas into fisheries.

The fisheries will produce foods which have traditionally been harvested off shore.

Saudis to develop eight chemical projects

RIYADH, May 6. (Opecna): The National Industrialisation Company (NIC) of Saudi Arabia has selected eight chemical development schemes from a list of 30 as economically viable and suitable for implementation.

According to NIC chief executive Dr Mahsoon Jalal, the selection was made following a study on investment opportunities in the Saudi chemical sector by an international company.

The company reviewed 30 possible investment opportunities and NIC selected eight of them as economically viable, he said.

Jalal stated that the projects would use locally-made materials, including those manufactured by the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic).

Reagan aide expects further improvement in trade balance

US economy right on target, says Sprinkel

WASHINGTON, May 6. One of President Reagan's top economic advisers said the US economy is right on the path the administration had predicted earlier in the year. "The economy is on track for moderate further expansion and for restrained inflation in 1988," Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, said following release of Commerce Department figures showing the economy grew at a 2.3 per cent annual rate during the first quarter.

Trend

In a briefing at the White House last week, Sprinkel added that the trade deficit is narrowing, and that he expects further improvement in the US trade balance in the months ahead.

Referring to the stock market crash of last October, Sprinkel said that "consumer attitudes have recovered most of the post-

crash loss" and "investment plans and actual expenditures in the first quarter were quite strong."

"Leading indicators have been erratic," he continued. "They have monetary policy, from my point of view, is on track. We are seeing moderate and stable money growth, which will prevent inflation on the one hand or recession on the other. The outlook, then, in my opinion, is positive for continued moderate economic growth in the months ahead."

The Council chairman described the recent rises in consumer and producer prices as "blips," adding that they were not indicative of any trend.

The latest gross national product figures revealed that the GNP deflator, which is one very broad based measure of inflation, rose 2.4 per cent in the first quarter, 0.3 per cent less than in the fourth quarter of 1987, and the fixed weight price index,

another GNP-related inflation index, was up 3.7 per cent — 0.1 per cent more than the fourth quarter rate.

Sprinkel said that as US labour and capital utilisation rates increase, the growth in demand must slow if the threat of serious inflation is to be avoided. "This is happening," he said. "In the fourth quarter, nominal GNP rose 7.6 per cent and slowed to 4.7 per cent in the first quarter. So there was a slowdown in nominal demand increases."

Capacity

Even though industrial capacity utilisation has risen recently to 82.3 per cent, Sprinkel said that it remains well below the 1978-80 high of 86.9 per cent, and is very near the average for the past 20 years, which has been 81.5 per cent.

He further noted that while utilisation rates are much higher in some industries — paper (94.8

per cent), textiles (91.0 per cent), steel (84.9) — planned increases in capital spending in many of these industries will gradually relieve those capacity pressures.

"The conditions that could lead to a sharp acceleration of inflation well above the 4 per cent rate do not appear to be there," Sprinkel said. "We are seeing a slowing of final demand, we do believe there is sufficient room both in the labour force and in the capital utilisation area to allow moderate growth in the period ahead."

He said that the international adjustment process is working, as evidenced by the slowdown in US domestic demand growth. It was only 1.8 per cent last quarter, which should lead to restrained imports and further improvement in the trade deficit, he said. Domestic demand must stay at moderate rates of increase, he continued, if the United States is to continue to deter growth in imports.

Chissano opens 28th Zimbabwe fair

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, May 6. (AP) President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique yesterday opened the 28th Zimbabwe international trade fair with an attack on neighbouring South Africa for forcing black-ruled states into "perpetual dependence."

Participating in the fair are 850 exhibitors from 31 countries. Chissano, flanked by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe in the second city of Bulawayo, said Pretoria's policy of destabilisation in the region was aimed at preventing the black nations from becoming economically self-reliant.

Stability

"Without peace and stability there can be no development," he told thousands of cheering people.

Chissano also paid tribute to Zimbabwe, his country's staunch African ally, for sending troops to Mozambique to protect trade routes and an oil pipeline.

British Aerospace gets clearance to buy Rover

LONDON, May 6. (AP) The government today cleared British Aerospace Plc's proposed \$150-million (\$281-million) acquisition of the state-owned automaker Rover Group Plc.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it would not refer the planned takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, effectively clearing the way for the merger's completion.

Following a routine review, the trade department's office of Fair Trading said it lacked any grounds to submit the merger for further review.

Trade Secretary Lord Younger in March announced British Aerospace's intentions to buy the government's 99.7 per cent stake in Rover. The remainder was owned by minority shareholders.

Iran to buy oil products from Europe

BAHRAIN, May 6. (Reuters): Iran, its refineries smashed by war and its ties with Arab neighbours crumbling, is moving away from Gulf sources to buy refined products in Europe, regional oil traders said.

"A supply of gas oil and kerosene to Iran on three large tankers from northwest Europe since last March indicates a clear policy change," said a Gulf-based oil trader said.

Despite some diverse buying from Singapore to the Caribbean, Iran has relied heavily on refined products shipped out of Gulf Arab states.

Oil industry sources say a switch to Europe would make sense if Iran feared its deteriorating relations with Gulf states could choke off supplies.

"(The Iranians) are either

demanding more products or they do not want to rely too heavily on Gulf sources after Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations," one said.

Riyadh severed diplomatic ties with Iran on April 27.

Traders said Gulf Arabs did not sell refined products directly to Iran but international oil companies did.

Companies often supplied Iran via reprocessing agreements with Far Eastern refineries or in a products-for-crude swap.

But most bought refined products from Gulf refineries for Iran. Freight costs were a fraction of those from other areas, but traders said Gulf refiners charged above market rates for spot products bound for Iran.

Iran mainly imports gas oil for

truck and tank diesel engines,

kerosene for jets and for heating and small volumes of gasoline for cars.

It needs between 200,000 and 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) to fuel its economy and war machine, traders estimate. Local demand for oil products is around 800,000 bpd.

Capacity

Iran's local refining capacity is now estimated at around 400,000 bpd with its main Tabriz and Tehran refineries either out of action or on reduced operation.

Iran in the past two months chartered two large tankers, normally used to carry crude, through a European-based oil-trading firm to carry gas oil from Europe's refining centre near Rotterdam.

Agico profits slump

ABU DHABI, May 6. (Opecna): The Arab General Investment Corporation (Agico) recorded a net profit of about \$5 million last year, down 6.5 per cent from the 1986 figure of 7.43 million.

The company plans to concentrate on direct investment this year, including the establishment of a portfolio management service for Arab investors.

The service will help identify direct investment opportunities in Arab countries and even make financial packages for individual Arab investors.

The company's assets declined marginally to \$114 million last year from 120 million in 1986.

Established in 1979 in Dubai, Agico is a joint stock public company with 11,500 shareholders from Arab countries.

Opec boosts oil output

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): Opec boosted oil production sharply in April, even as it met with seven producers from outside the organisation in a bid to agree export cuts to buoy prices, oil industry sources say.

Oil traders, market analysts, company executives and shipping sources in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Latin America told Reuters correspondents that Opec production rose to around 18 million barrels a day in April, up from an estimated 17.4 million barrels daily in March.

Those figures are well above the 15.06 million barrels a day ceiling Opec members, excluding Iraq, agreed last December in an attempt to enforce their reference price of \$18 a barrel. Brent crude oil from the North Sea, a benchmark for the world market, now trades just above \$16.

Increase

Industry sources say most of April's increase came from Saudi Arabia, the biggest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), with Iran and the UAE also pumping more.

Industry analysts have said they believe Opec's talks with seven non-Opec producers — Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman — failed because of Saudi Arabia's determination to maintain the organisation's dominance of world markets.

Down

The industry sources say Saudi Arabia pumped an average of 4.5 million barrels a day in April, up from 4.1 million in March.

Iran's production rose an estimated 100,000 barrels daily

to two million, while the UAE pumped 1.3 million barrels daily, up from 1.2 million.

Analysts say a glut of oil has been keeping prices down, but some expect demand to increase in the second half of 1988.

And Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa says he expects vigorous demand in the third and fourth quarters, adding that he believes Opec's next June meeting could consider raising quotas for members.

Oil prices were marginally firmer in another dull day on international spot markets yesterday.

Traders said this was simply a continuation of the uncertainty seen since Monday when prices fell one dollar on failure by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to agree supply cuts matching an offer by outside producers.

Traders have been unsure over where prices will go next, letting business drift around \$16 a barrel for North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude.

Bank runs out of cash

BEIJING, May 6. (Reuters): A Beijing man who went to get cash from his bank account was told he would have to wait until others made a deposit because the bank was out of money.

The Economic Daily today printed a letter from the angry customer describing his long wait at the bank. He said another customer who needed money to pay for a member of his family to go to hospital also had to go without cash.

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International Bond Highlights

New York - Moody's Investors Service Inc said it affirmed Pkbanken's top flight debt ratings. The bank's long-term deposit obligations were affirmed at AAA and short-term deposits and commercial paper at prime-1. (RTWL 1727)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDH 7-5/8 3/8	7-7/8 13/16	8-3/8 1/4
FFT 3.25/30	3.40/45	3.45/50
PAR 7-1/8 7-1/4	7-3/4 7/8	8-1/8 1/8
ZUR 1-3/8 1-5/8	1-7/8 2-1/8	2-2-1/4
BRX 4.85	6.00 1/8	6.00 1/8
ROW 9-5/8 10-1/8	10-1/8 10-5/8	10-3/8 10-7/8
AMS 4-1/8 4-1/4	4-0 4-1/16	4-0 4-1/8
TOK 3.4375 5000	3.8125 8750	3.8750 9375
EDU 5.75 5.87	6.00 6.12	6.31 6.43

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait on Thursday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	65/16	613/16
3 months	515/16	67/16
6 months	53/4	63/16
1 year	511/16	61/8

BOMBAY

	PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	66.25	66.5	67	NICO	515	510	515
ACC	158	159	166	GNFC	33.5	34	34.75	MUKAND	89.5	90	91.5
ASIA PAINT	142.5	145	147.5	GRASIM	92	93	95	NOCIL	455	460	465
BAJAJ AUTO	202.5	195	198.75	GSFC	102	103	104	ORRAY	23.5	22.5	23.5
BAR. RAYON	217.5	222.5	226	NIND LEVER	73	72	73	PEICO	33	31	32
BON. DYING	129	128	128.5	NINDALCO	77	76.5	78	PFIZER	66	64.5	66
BR. BOND	95.5	93	94	NINDCOCCA	77.5	75	77.5	PRE-AUTO	28	29	28.5
BSE INDEX	473.88	471.74	471.74	NINDHOTO	18.25	18.25	18	RAYMOND	44	44	45
CENTURYSPG	830	827.5	832.5	NINDORG	18.25	18.25	18.25	RELIANCE	119.5	121	125
COLGATE	179	179.75	179	INDRATON	61.5	62.5	63.5	SIEMENS	65	65	66
DEEPAKERT	29.5	29	29.5	INDROL	162.5	158.25	162.5	SPIC	34	33.5	34.75
EL. HOTEL	52	52	52	ITC	36.5	36	37	STDMILLS	222.5	230	231
ESKATF	162.5	161.25	166.25	JKSRYTH	55.5	55.5	56	TATA PWR	250	247.5	252.5
ESSAR	16	16	16.5	L AND T	84	84	86	TATACHEM	64	63.5	64
SAR. POLY	76.5	76.25	77	MAHINDRA	58	57	58.5	TELCO	495	495	510
GE. SHIP	26.25	26.35	26.35	MASTERSHR	10.12	10	10.12	TISCO	698.75	700	707.5
				MATHER PL	76.25	76.5	77	VOLTA	285	282.5	286.25

FRANKFURT

STOCK

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TOKYO

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AMMAN

As of 4.5.88	OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.19	1.17
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.82	1.82
ARAB BANK	115.0	114.5
ARAB CHEMICAL OTER	3.90	3.90
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.33	1.33
ARAB INSURANCE	1.10	1.05
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.98	0.98
ARAB INT. UNION TRB	0.94	0.90
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.10	2.10
ARAB PAPER COM/IND	0.33	0.36
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	0.76	0.75
ARAB POTASH CO.	1.65	1.65
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	15.00	15.10
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.00	30.00
DAR AL SHAH PRESS	0.36	0.38
DAR ALDHAQ OR/INV.	1.42	1.42
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.40	0.41
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.50	0.50
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.10	3.95
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.25	1.26
GENERAL MINING.	1.22	1.22
HIMMER MINERALS	0.79	0.79
HOLY LAND INS.	1.20	1.32
IND./MATCH JENCO	0.60	0.60
INDUSTRIAL DEVLPT BHK	1.40	1.41
INDUSTRIAL/COM/AGR.	1.29	1.29
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERCOM/INV	0.19	0.20
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.96	0.96
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
ITERNED/PETRI/CH	1.22	1.27
J.-TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.75	0.75
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29
JO TORACCO/CIGARET	13.60	13.60
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.04	1.04
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.45	1.46
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.17
JOR GLASS INDUSTRIES	0.92	0.91
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.41	1.51
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.80	0.75
JOR LIN BRICK	0.20	0.21
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.50	2.47
JOR PAPER CARD/DRG	3.00	3.05
JOR PHOSPHATE HING	2.21	2.21
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.25	1.14
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	2.00	2.05
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	3.96	4.00
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.55	0.56
JOR SECURIT. CORP	0.75	0.74
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.58	2.63
JOR WOOD INDUSTRT	1.14	1.13
JOR WORSTED HLL	4.57	4.57
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	1.00	1.00
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.07	7.08
JOR.FRENCH INS.	5.20	5.30
JOR INV.FIN. CORP	1.88	1.88
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.30	0.30
JORDAN DAIKT	0.97	0.99
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.16	1.15
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.96	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85	13.90
JORDAN ISLAMIC BHK	1.67	1.67
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.45	1.45
JORDAN TANNING	1.95	1.95
LIVESTOCK/POLTRY	0.75	0.75
MACH/ENG/RENT/MAIN	0.75	0.74
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.60	0.60
MIDDEL EAST IND.	60.00	60.00
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.60	0.55
MAT.FIN. INVEST CO	1.80	1.80
MAT/CABLE/WIRE/RF	0.96	0.96
NATIONAL ALIA INS	1.29	1.25
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.50	0.50
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.68	0.70
NATIONAL STEEL	2.83	2.82
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
PETRA BANK	2.00	1.95
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50	0.50
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.89	0.89
RAFA INDUSTRIAL	0.80	0.80
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.39	0.37
SHIPPING LINES	0.78	0.78
SPIRING LIVING	0.74	0.74
THE HOUSING BANK	1.71	1.71
UNITED INSURANCE	1.00	1.00
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	1.50	1.50
UNIVERSAL INS.	1.19	1.23
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85	0.81
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.06	1.07

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				BC-A		75.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-A	.45	.45
AC-A	8.20	8.30	8.20	LC-B	.46	.47
ANS	3.75	3.80	3.80	PX-A	.38	.38
FER-A	2.42	2.46		PX-B	.40	.40
GLA	34.50	35.00	34.50	OIL SECTOR		
PLDT	183.00	184.00	187.00	BP-A	.017	.018
KPSI-A	1.50	1.60		BP-B	.017	.019
SMC-A	142.00	143.00	145.00	LRC-A	.0024	.0026
SMC-B	182.00	183.00	182.00	LRC-B	.0026	.0028
MINING SECTOR				OPH-A	.043	.044
APX-A	.03	.031	.031	OPH-B	.044	.046
APX-B	.031	.032	.032	OV-A	.032	.033
AT-A	20.75	21.00	21.25	OV-B	.032	.033

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION					
SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES	
COMM.IND.	300,630	13,813,035	825.05	10.56	DN
MINING	51,684,350	7,774,875	4,926.14	62.37	ON
OIL	64,100,000	1,340,200	5.897	0.213	ON
TOTAL	116,084,980	22,928,110	794.76	16.07	DN

Islamic banks plan \$300m investment fund

ABU DHABI, May 6, (Reuters): Islamic banks in the Gulf are planning a \$300 million fund for investment in Islamic states, a senior banking official said.

A committee has been studying steps to set up the fund, proposed by Dubai Islamic Bank, the bank's chairman Saeed Ahmed Loptah told Reuters.

"We have finalised a study that is only awaiting approval by the Gulf branch of the International Islamic Bank's Union," he said.

Loptah heads the Gulf section of the union, which groups more than 50 banks in Islamic states.

Capital
He said the fund's capital had been initially set at \$300 million but could be raised depending on subscriptions.

There would be 1,000 shares worth \$300,000 and subscription would be limited to Islamic banks and monetary institutions in Islamic nations.

Bankers expect the fund to be based in Kuwait or the UAE, although no final decision has been taken.

Loptah said business would be carried out in accordance with Islamic sharia, which bans any sort of interest.

He said business would cover the buying and selling of Islamic bank bonds and money certificates.

South and N. Yemen to start joint oil exploration

ADEN, May 6, (Reuters): South and North Yemen have agreed on a joint exploration for oil in their border region following a South Yemeni leader's visit to Sanaa, newspapers reported yesterday.

Ali Salem Al Baidi, secretary-general of the ruling Marxist Socialist party, returned home on Wednesday after signing agreements with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, aimed at uniting the states.

Oil in commercial quantities was discovered in both Yemenis in recent years. North Yemen's oilfields at Ma'rib are only 200 km (125 miles) away from the South's Shabwa fields.

Third World debt can still evoke gloom

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): Soothing noises have been heard lately about the Third World's \$1.2 trillion of debt but optimism about solutions is not universal.

One leading banker, Bank of Tokyo chairman, Yusuke Kashiwagi, says he thinks the debt crisis is far from resolved, six years after Mexico's near-default shook the world economy.

"It appears to me that this issue will probably be coming to a critical head in the coming months, unless something is done about it soon," he told a London audience recently.

His view contrasted with the mood earlier in April, after meetings in Washington of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Momentum
"There's a real sense of momentum," said senior World Bank official David Hopper after those discussions.

Recent months saw a cash injection to the World Bank of \$75 billion, and an accord by wealthy nations to triple the pool of money available on easy terms to the poorest African countries, among other new measures to alleviate the crisis.

Meanwhile, Western banks have in the past year set aside huge sums from their profits to provide against potential bad debts, bringing into open debate the once-heretical idea that — since much Third World borrowing probably will never be repaid anyway — it might as well be quickly written off.

Proposals
US Treasury Secretary James Baker, however, has criticised proposals to forgive the Third World its debts.

"I believe that path leads both debtors and creditors off the cliff," he says.

Forgiving at least some of the debt, some bankers and economists argue, might ease the short-term burden of the present crisis, in which the Third World is spending almost \$30 billion more on servicing its debt each year than it gets in new loans.

But wiping off the debt would scarcely improve developing nations' credit-worthiness.

Challenge

The real challenge is increasingly seen as being how to pump more, big money into the Third World to get its recession-hit economies moving again while also helping it settle past debt — rather than merely getting the banks' money back or finding ways to write down bad loans on the balance sheets.

Dollar rises and gold steady

LONDON, May 6, (AP): The US dollar opened higher against most foreign currencies in moderate European trading today following a technical rally in New York overnight. Gold prices were little changed.

Foreign exchange dealers said the market was waiting for US unemployment figures for April, scheduled to be released later today. Analysts expect the jobless rate to be roughly unchanged at 5.6 per cent.

In Tokyo, where trading ends as Europe's business day begins, the dollar closed at 124.88 yen following a three-day market holiday. Later, in London, it was quoted at 124.75 yen compared with 124.32 late Thursday.

Other dollar rates at midmorning, compared with late Thursday:

— 1.6798 West German marks, up from 1.6780

— 1.4007 Swiss francs, up from 1.3955

— 5.7190 French francs, up from 5.7052

— 1.8832 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8790

— 1.253.90 Italian lire, up from 1.253.25

— 1.2325 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2333

In London, one British pound cost \$1.8665, unchanged from late Thursday.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$446 a troy ounce, little changed from late Thursday's \$445.25. At midmorning today, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$445.95.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$445.80, up from \$445.50 late Thursday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose 1.64 to close at a bid \$448.71.

Silver was quoted in London today at a bid price of \$6.39 a troy ounce, up from Thursday's \$6.37.

In London, share prices were firmer at midday today after some fresh buying interest crept into the London market.

The Financial Times-stock exchange 100-share index was up 10.1 points, or 0.6 per cent, at 1,799.6, about 12:45 p.m. (11:45 GMT), just shy of the psychologically important 1,800-point level.

The index opened at its intraday low, 4.2 points up, then moved as much as 12.2 points higher at midmorning.

Volume was a moderate 352.4 million shares.

That included 3.5 million Rowntree shares which changed hands by midmorning as Swiss confectioner Jacobs Suchard increased its stake to 28.6 per cent, close to the 30 per cent level at which it would be required to make a full bid.

Bullish

Traders said a bullish report on the British equity market issued by Nomura Research Institute helped boost share prices.

Neil Macinnon, chief economist at Nomura Research, said the London market "represents good value in terms of fundamentals, valuation criteria and currency risks."

Analysts said the study would likely encourage Japanese investors to participate in the British Market.

US, Japan make trade talk progress

WASHINGTON, May 6, (Reuters): US-Japanese farm trade talks broke down in April, Japan's agriculture minister storms home.

Negotiations collapse again in May, Washington threatens to retaliate against Tokyo.

A sure sign of failure? Perhaps not.

Behind public displays of disgruntlement, US and Japanese officials have been making progress, measurable progress toward resolving a 15-year dispute involving US beef and citrus exports.

Publicly, the two sides have accentuated the negative.

"I can assure you that my patience as a negotiator has come to an end," US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said on Wednesday after the latest round of talks ended.

Regret

"We expressed our regret that during the course of bilateral talks, the United States has not shown understanding of the special situation surrounding these products," Yuji Ikeda, a senior Japanese trade delegate, told Reuters.

Both officials were commenting on their countries' failure to reach an agreement on trade in beef, veal, oranges and orange juice.

The United States maintains Japan's quotas are illegal under world trading rules. Washington

began warning in 1984, when a bilateral quota accord was signed, that it would demand their elimination as soon as the pact expired last April.

US officials estimate that if Tokyo dropped the quotas, annual beef and citrus sales to Japan would double to about \$1.5 billion.

The dollar amount is small compared to domestic sales. But industry leaders know that any progress they make in tearing down barriers to trade in Japan could improve the prospects of doing the same in other countries. The overall impact on global sales could be substantial over time.

Quotas

The officials' outward dissatisfaction is not feigned. But it masks progress that has been made and, according to government and private officials, is likely to continue to be made.

As recently as a month ago, Yeutter publicly was calling for immediate elimination of Japan's quotas. On Wednesday, Yeutter disclosed that the US administration had backed away from its four-year-old position.

Yeutter for the first time acknowledged his government was willing to accept a phase-out of the quotas — over two years in the case of orange and orange juice, three years for beef.

The US Agriculture Department, congressional sources

said, has told lawmakers not to meddle, that Japan is on the way to opening up the markets.

For its part, Japan has yet to say in public that it is prepared to drop the quotas, which its politically powerful farm groups say are needed to protect their industries.

Change

But Japanese officials privately admit that change is inevitable. "We are going to liberalise," one diplomat said.

Even some connected with Japan's Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu) — which has twice as many members, 5.5 million, as there are American farmers — appear to have backtracked from unyielding opposition to change.

"Anything short of total liberalisation would be a victory," an official affiliated with Zenchu commented.

From the US point of view, tough rhetoric bastes the opening up of Japan's agricultural markets by keeping constant, public pressure on Tokyo's officials.

Time is of utmost importance, simply because Yeutter and his negotiating team will no longer be in place when President Reagan leaves office next January.

"We assuredly will not permit this case to spill into the next administration," Yeutter warned.

Yeutter also knows that as the new round of world trade liberalisation talks progresses in Geneva, Washington's leverage over the specifics of trade policy changes in Tokyo may diminish.

Verbal pressure from the United States can also protect those in Tokyo who may be reconciled to liberalisation but need international coercion to justify difficult decisions.

A Japanese official noted that, upon returning to Tokyo, Japanese Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato, who has spent months trying to ensure orderly dismantlement of the quotas, would benefit from the perception of disagreement.

Quotas

"He will be greatly welcomed because he will be seen as having turned down the US request," the diplomat said. "He'll be a hero, unfortunately."

The United States has asked the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva to review the legality of the quotas, and the consensus seems to be that the trading body will rule in Washington's favour.

Aware of the likelihood of such a ruling and wary of provoking the US Congress, Tokyo is weighing whether it would give up less through a bilateral solution or only after a GATT judgement, Japanese officials said.

Farm experts urge quick progress at GATT talks

WASHINGTON, May 6, (Reuters): A group of 29 agricultural experts from 17 countries said on Wednesday that members of the world body GATT need to make progress in farm trade talks this year or risk undermining the entire global trading system.

The experts, including a number of former high-ranking government officials, issued a statement calling on the United States and the European Economic Community to bridge the wide differences dividing them in world farm trade talks.

They indirectly criticised the Reagan administration and the EEC for their current negotiating positions.

"Of immediate concern," the statement said, "is the increasing acceptance of the view that the process can and should be delayed because of national elections, political fatigue and the general sensitivity of agricultural issues."

Disruptive

"It is important that momentum is not lost and that the situation is not allowed to drift back into a series of unilateral policies which may be both disruptive and self-defeating."

"The future of the multilateral trading system may well be at risk," the statement said, urging the heads of the major industrial countries at their summit in Toronto next month to set the goal of securing a framework agreement by December.

The call to action was issued jointly by the Institute for International Economics in Washington and the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Canada.

Signatories included former senior government officials from the United States, Canada, West Germany, Denmark, Hungary and Argentina.

Also included were academics and former officials of various international organisations from the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, France, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Chile.

Dale Hathaway, former US Undersecretary of Agriculture, told a press conference that farm trade negotiators could fail to make progress this year.

"You don't have a stalemate in the negotiations. You have leth-

argy bordering on total fatigue," he said.

EEC officials have privately said that little progress should be expected until a new US president took office next January.

Delay in making progress, the statement said, could open the way to further subsidy wars in the event economic conditions worsened, jeopardising successful completion of the entire GATT liberalisation round, set to conclude in 1990.

Insistence

The statement was implicitly critical of the Reagan administration's insistence that other members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade agree with its proposal to scrap all trade-distorting subsidies within 10 years as a precondition for making progress.

It said agreements on components and direction of change "were far more important at this time, as well as far more feasible, than trying to negotiate the magnitude of changes and the time period over which they will take place."

India to help Vietnam explore for oil

NEW DELHI, May 6, (AP): India has agreed in principle to assist Vietnam in exploring for oil off its coast, and a formal contract is expected to be signed later this month, an Indian government official said today.

The contract will be concluded between Hydrocarbon India Ltd, a subsidiary of the government-run Oil and Natural Gas Commission, and Vietnam's state-owned oil company, said S.C.N. Jatar, chairman and managing director of Hil.

Agreement

Jatar said the agreement will be the first signed with Vietnam. India has extensive exploration programmes under way both onshore and offshore on the subcontinent.

The two countries signed a protocol on oil exploration during a January 1987 visit to Hanoi by former Foreign Minister N.D. Tiwari. Tiwari is currently India's Finance Minister.

Negotiations with Vietnam began in May of 1987 and were concluded in March, Jatar said.

Egypt set to scrape through looming economic crisis

CAIRO, May 6, (Reuters): Egypt is "caught in a text book squeeze" between the need for austerity and fears of social unrest, but President Hosni Mubarak's government is set to scrape through a looming economic crisis.



President Mubarak between July 1 and the end of 1989.

Talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a \$325-million credit package appear deadlocked over fund demands that Cairo speeds up the pace of economic reform.

And time is running out for Egypt to hammer out \$1.2 billion in stalled debt reschedulings with seven Western nations including Japan and Britain before a June 30 deadline.

But Western diplomats believe Cairo, saddled with \$43 billion of foreign debt, will probably wrest concessions from the IMF, relying heavily on the knowledge Western nations will tread carefully to avoid destabilising a key Middle East ally.

Deal

"There must be doubts whether the technical conditions of the IMF deal can be met," one

embassy economist said. "But that does not mean the entire relationship has broken down. There may be scope for trying to patch together another agreement."

Another said: "The fund is much more supple with a country like this which has vital strategic importance — though it is pressing the Egyptians to get their economy in order."

Economists in Cairo say the 18-month IMF accord signed in May 1987 can best be described as moribund. A new IMF mission to Egypt is set for May 21, monetary sources in Washington said.

Reform

Egypt has responded to some fund demands, streamlining its foreign exchange system and gradually raising the subsidised prices of electricity, telephone calls, fuel and other services.

But the IMF wants swifter, broader reforms and has withheld payments of credits totalling more than \$150 million.

That in turn threatens to block a move to approach the Paris Club which groups Western creditor nations, to reschedule a second batch of debt falling due

diplomats predicted the IMF may be ready to endorse new Egyptian economic measures within three months provided it can reach agreement with Paris Club creditors on the first round of outstanding debt reschedulings.

Conditions

"On the one hand, you have the purely economic viewpoint that Egypt has not fulfilled the fund's conditions," he said.

"Then you have the politics of the matter. Both sides know that Western countries have an interest in not being too severe with Egypt."

Egypt relies heavily on US and West European fears of instability in its continual search for economic support.

Diplomats believe constant turmoil in the Middle East gives Egypt a powerful argument in talks with Western creditors.

Egyptian ministers fear unrest if the cost of living is raised too swiftly as happened 11 years ago when bread and flour prices shot up overnight and sparked riots.

Low

But they acknowledged that reforms and debt relief are essential because hard currency earnings are simply too low.

Income from tourism and the Suez Canal has risen over the past year, but the end of the oil boom has cut remittances from Egyptian workers abroad and from crude oil exports, the nation's biggest hard currency earner.

That makes it all the more important for Cairo to finalise debt reschedulings — agreed in principle with the Paris Club a year ago but bogged down in a series of disputes with individual countries over Egypt's insistence on lower interest rates.

Payments

Ten agreements for \$4.7 billion have been signed so far, including with Washington and Paris, which have both agreed to stretch out payments on \$1.6 billion of debt.

The largest bilateral debt negotiation still outstanding is with Switzerland where \$320 million is due to be rescheduled.

Negotiations with Japan centre on \$309 million of debt, while Australia is negotiating on \$214 million, Britain 180 million, Canada 130 million, Sweden 50 million and Norway 19 million.

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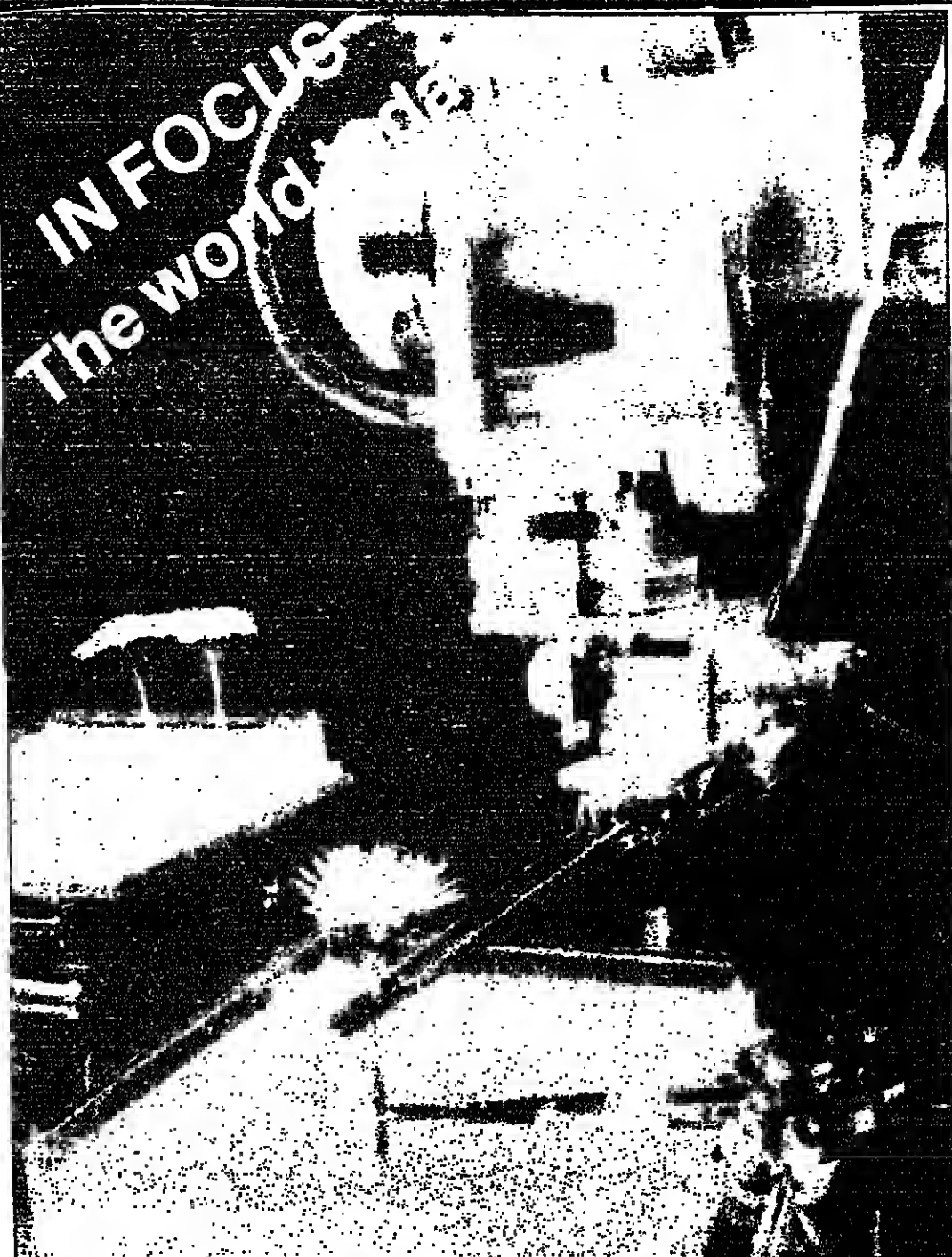


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A JAPANESE corporation announced yesterday that it has developed a new prototype robot for automated plant factories of the future where advanced electronics and biotechnology will be used to grow flowers and vegetables in clean rooms. (Reuter wirephoto)



UNDATED file photo of Wilfredo Lehner, a Swiss national who was kidnapped with several other foreign diplomats and journalists on Monday. Three more journalists were kidnapped in Bogota on Thursday by gunmen from the pro-Cuban National Liberation Army, bringing the total number of hostages to at least 14. (Reuter wirephoto)



QUEEN Noor Al Hussein of Jordan opens the exhibition 'Road of Kings — 9,000 years history of Jordan' in the Schallaburg castle, about 90 kilometres from Vienna on Thursday. Queen Noor chats with children dressed in typical Wachau dress before they play a musical number at the exhibition. (Reuter wirephoto)



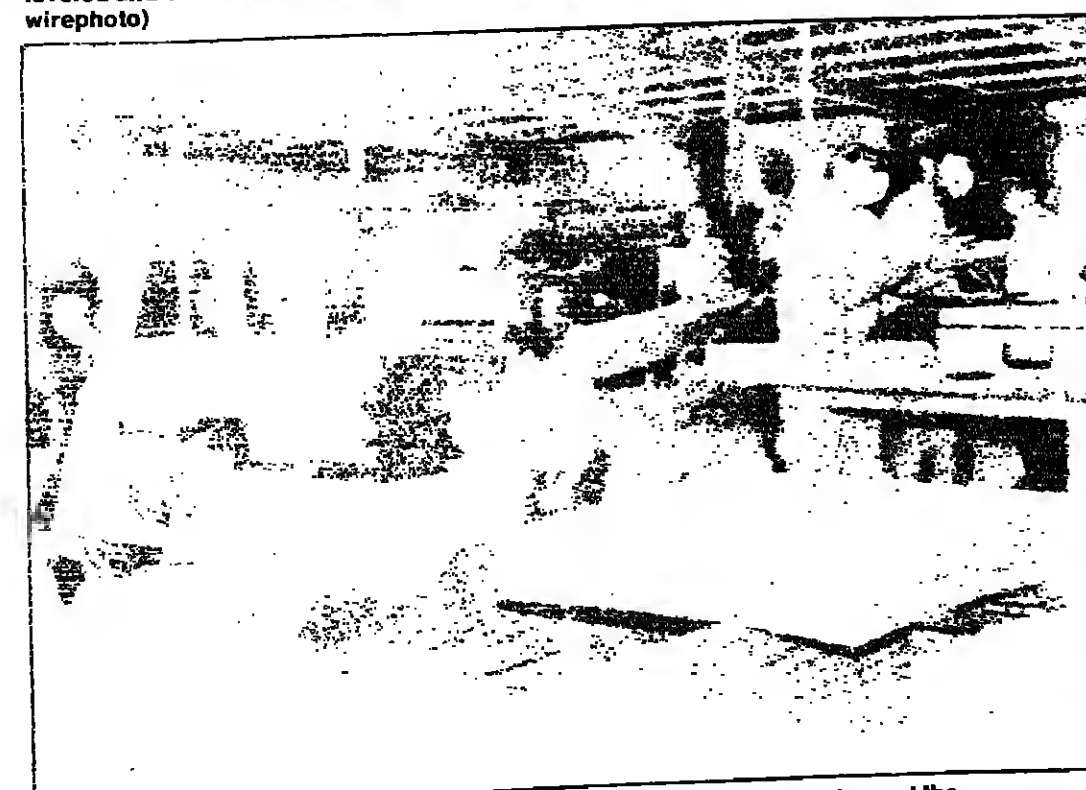
FRENCH journalist and former hostage Jean Paul Kauffmann puts his arm around his son Alexandre a moment after his arrival at Villacoublay airbase outside Paris. Three French hostages who were released yesterday in West Beirut after three years of captivity arrived in Paris on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)



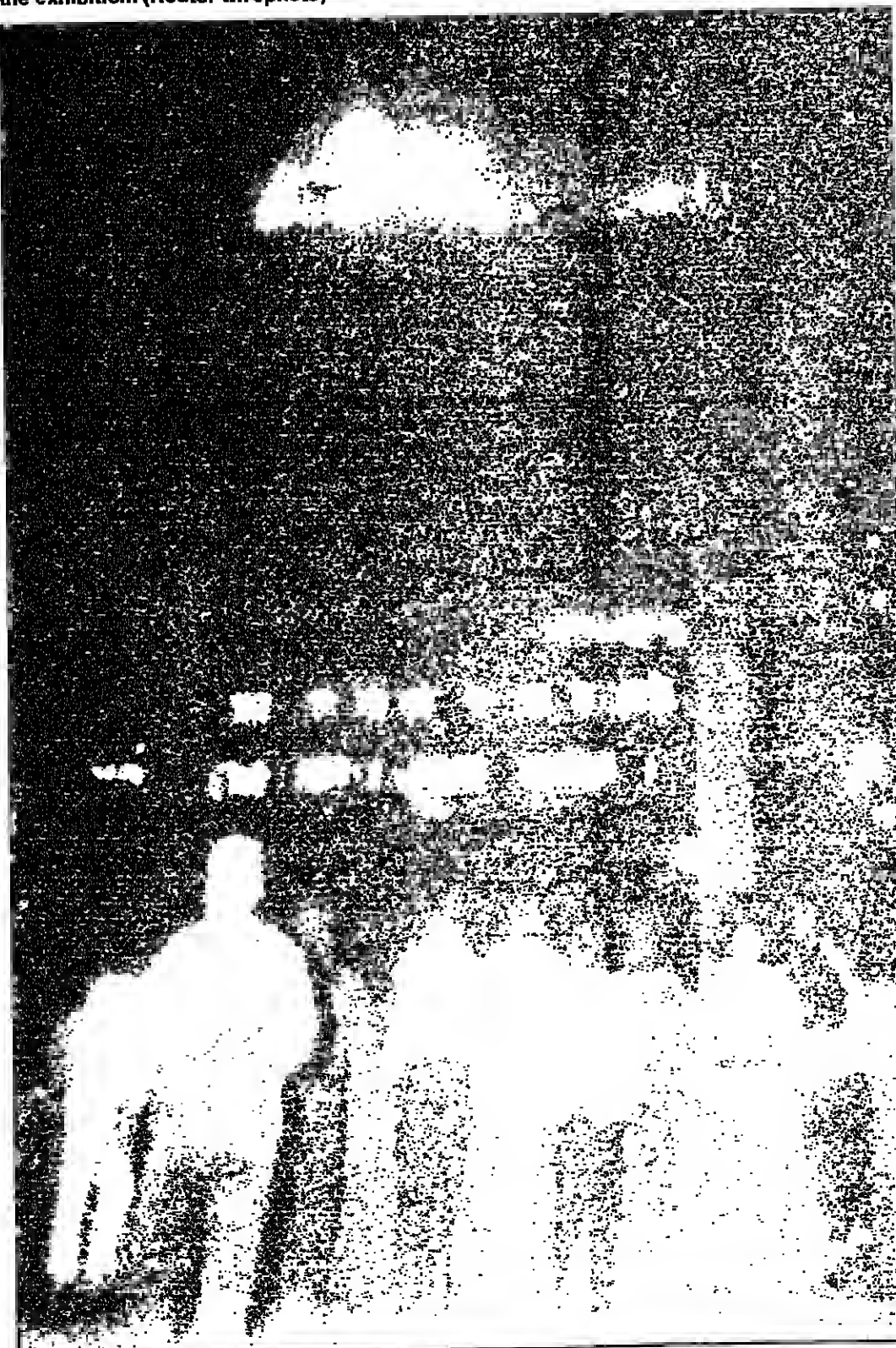
STRIKERS at the besieged Lenin shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, sleep in a canteen during the fourth day of the strike. (Reuter wirephoto)



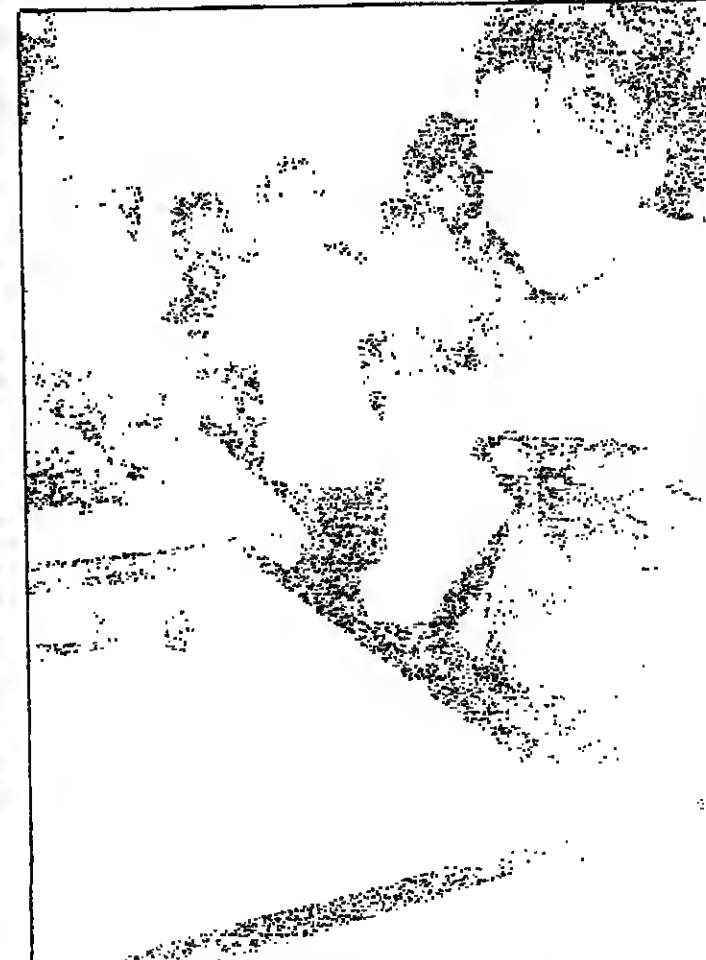
A YOUNG schoolgirl cries in tear inside her elementary school near Wednesday's chemical rocket fuel explosion that leveled several nearby blocks just southeast of Las Vegas. The Pacific Engineering Company and a marshmallow company were leveled and officials say one person has died as a result of the explosion. (Reuter wirephoto)



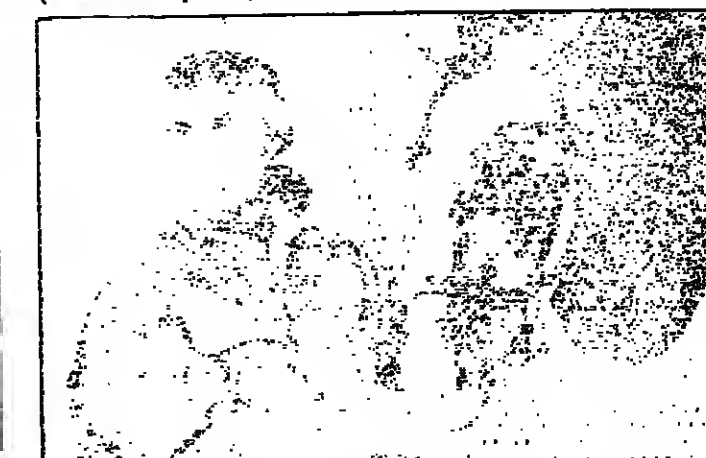
DRUG agents (right) weigh the cocaine as other agents saw and break apart the lumber found in this Tarpon Springs, Florida, warehouse last week. The agents use surgical masks to protect them against the sawdust. Some 3,500 kilos of cocaine have been found inside the lumber. It is expected to be the largest cocaine bust in US history. (Reuter wirephoto)



PEOPLE watch as flames shoot from the windows of the 12th and 13th floors of the First Interstate Bancorp Building late Wednesday. Thirty-one persons were taken to area hospitals and at least eight were rescued from the roof of the building. (Reuter wirephoto)



A WOMAN weeps while viewing on Thursday the body of Dona Josefa Edralin Marcos, mother of deposed Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, who died of multiple organ failure. President Aquino barred Marcos from attending his mother's funeral citing national security reasons. (Reuter wirephoto)



TRAINER Wayne Lukas relaxes with his filly 'Winning Colors', one of the favourites in the 114th running of the Kentucky Derby. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ban on English soccer clubs set to remain

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): The ban on English soccer clubs playing in Europe could remain in force next season because the British government is not ready to reassess the European Football Union (UEFA) that they are winning the battle against hooliganism.

British Sports Minister, Colin Moynihan, and UEFA president Jacques Georges, are due to meet at Wembley after the Football Association (FA) Cup final on May 14.

But a government spokesman said yesterday that Moynihan would not present a full report to UEFA on the success of anti-hooligan measures in England until after the European Championships in West Germany in June.

The spokesman said: "He will put forward all the information he has — and that includes some good progress and also some not so good."

Progress

Moynihan is thought likely to tell Georges of the problems still confronting the government when the pair meet.

He said on Wednesday that "great progress has been made" in the war against domestic hooliganism but also conceded that the government was still not satisfied that all necessary preventive steps had been taken.

"Many clubs have made determined efforts but some have been very slow," he said.

Georges has insisted that the government must accept responsibility for clubs playing abroad. "If not, it is very likely that the countries, in which the teams want to play will not accept it either."

UEFA's decision on whether to lift the ban is expected at the end of the European Championships.

Italian Cup

GENOA, Italy, May 6, (Reuters): West German midfielder Hans-Peter Briegel scored with a powerful, close-range volley to help put Sampdoria on top in the Italian Cup soccer final yesterday.

Briegel struck in the 10th minute and Sampdoria won the first leg against Torino 2-0. They travel to Turin for the second leg on May 19.

LOSADA SCORES TWO IN UEFA CUP FINAL

Espanol rout Leverkusen in 1st leg

BARCELONA, Spain, May 6, (Reuters): Sebastian Losada scored two brilliant goals as Espanol of Spain crushed West Germany's Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final on Wednesday.

Losada struck after 45 and 57 minutes as the unsung Catalan team enjoyed a 12-minute purple patch, Miguel Soler hitting their third goal in the 48th minute.

Advantage

Espanol's unexpected convincing victory gives them a handsome advantage to protect when they travel to Leverkusen for the return leg on May 18 and left the West Germans bitterly regretting a series of squandered chances.

Losada, who came close to scoring in the opening minute, broke the deadlock in the last minute of the first half when he headed Soler's pass beyond Leverkusen goalkeeper Rudiger Vollhorn.

The goal came barely two min-



Leverkusen's midfielder Goetz (on the ground) tries to retain possession of the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

utes after an effort by Diego Orjuela had been disallowed for offside and it led to the collapse of Leverkusen's hopes of frustrating the Espanol attack.

Soler, who worked tirelessly

on the wing where he constantly extended the defence with his penetrating runs, was rewarded with the second goal three minutes after the interval.

Losada shot from close range and ball cannoned off a wall of Leverkusen defenders. Soler made no mistake with the rebound.

Losada soothed Espanol's third nine minutes later. He divided full stretch to head a perfectly-timed low pass from Ernesto Valverde past Vollhorn.

"It's a good enough advantage for us to win the Cup," said Losada, on loan from Spanish champions Real Madrid.

Bayer had reacted gamely after conceding the second goal and came close to scoring when Taueber sent a shot skimming over the bar, but their play became ragged and showed clear signs of desperation.

Taueber was shown a yellow card minutes after Losada's second goal for a foul, commit-

ted more in frustration than anger, on defender Job Sanchez.

Espanol responded by slowing down the pace of the game, breaking up Leverkusen's attacks and keeping possession.

Led by Brazilian striker Tita, the West Germans pressed forward to several late frantic attacks, but to no avail as the Espanol defence held firm.

Teams:

Espanol — Thomas N'Kono, Jose 'Joh' Sanchez, Jose Maria Gallart, Miguel Angel, Santiago Urkiza, Miguel Soler, Inaki Perez, Diego Orjuela (Juan Golobart 66), Ernesto Valverde, Pichi Alonso (John Lauridsen 70), Sebastian Losada.

Bayer Leverkusen — Ruediger Vollhorn, Klaus Taueber, Pierre de Kayser, Florian Hinterberger, Alois Reinhardt, Wolfgang Rolf, Ralf Falkenmayer (Knot Reinhardt 75), Tita, Andrej Bunol, Herbert, Cha Bum-Kun (Falko Goetz 18).

Liverpool take fair play award

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): English League champions Liverpool are not only the best team but also the most sporting, according to the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).

First Division winners Liverpool have won the PFA Fair Play Trophy for having the least number of disciplinary points this season.

They had no-one sent off and received only 35 disciplinary points on their way to the title.

Next best were Nottingham Forest (61), while Second Division Blackburn (76) were third.

PFA secretary Gordon Taylor said yesterday: "It's a new award and is part of our attempt to improve behaviour on the field of play."

World Cup

ROME, May 6, (Reuters): International soccer chiefs warned football-loving Turin yesterday that it could be dropped as a match site for the 1990 World Cup in Italy and put a question mark over Rome as the venue for the final.

Archibald and Ardiles battle against injury

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): Ossi Ardiles was a star member of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side and Steve Archibald played in Barcelona's 1985 Spanish championship team.

Their ambitions this week concern the English Second Division.

The two players are battling to be fit for Blackburn's crucial match with new Second Division champions Millwall tomorrow. A victory for Blackburn would revive their hopes of being promoted to the First Division.

Ended:

Archibald, the Scottish international striker who is still only on loan from Barcelona, has a hamstring injury while midfielder Ardiles, borrowed from Tottenham, has damaged ankle ligaments.

Blackburn looked certain to return to the First Division when they put together a 23-game unbeaten sequence. But since the run was ended at Stoke on March 5, they have been hit by the promotion jitters and won only twice in 10 games.

It leaves them needing a win at Millwall to guarantee a place in the promotion play-offs. If they drew or lost, and Crystal Palace beat Manchester City at Selhurst Park, Palace would join them.

Blackburn manager Don Mackay, furious with his team after they were held by relegation-bound Reading on Monday, has called for one final effort tomorrow.

"We've got to forget all about Monday. This is now a one-off game which we must go out to win."

Short

With Liverpool assured of the League title, first-division interest tomorrow will be focused on Stamford Bridge where Chelsea need nothing short of victory against Charlton to avoid going through the trauma of the play-offs to retain their top-flight status.

Chelsea will be without their playmaker Micky Hazard, who has injuries to both his ankles which are likely to keep him out of any play-offs as well.

Forest edge past Norwich

LONDON, May 6, (Reuters): First-half goals by England international Neil Webb and Lee Glover earned Nottingham Forest a 2-0 win over Norwich on Wednesday and kept alive their slim hopes of finishing runners-up to English champions Liverpool.

The victory was Forest's first in five matches and took them into third place in the First Division four points behind Man-

chester United.

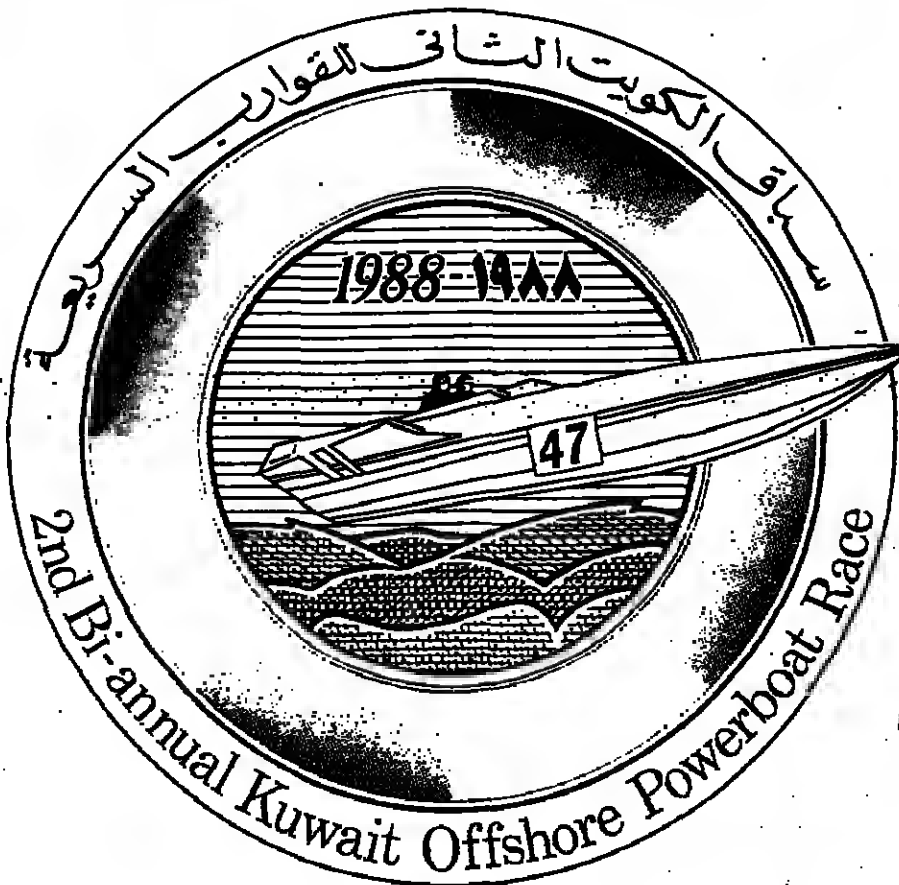
Webb gave Forest the lead in the eighth minute with a crisp, right-foot shot. Glover's goal, deflected in off defender Ian Culverhouse, followed in the 41st minute.

Tottenham completed a dismal season by their own high standards with a scrappy 2-1 win over League Cup winners Luton, who had several key players missing because of injury.

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SPORTS

PERNFORS REACHES QUARTERFINALS

Edberg struggles to edge Muster

NEW YORK, May 6. (Reuters): Top seed Stefan Edberg would rather be in Europe but guaranteed himself another day in New York with a victory over Austrian Thomas Muster at the Tournament of Champions yesterday.

The Swedish-born Edberg, who lives in London, counter-punched his way into the quarterfinals with a 6-4 6-3 win over the hard-hitting 16th-seed in a match delayed by rain and played in an intermittent drizzle.

Spice
Edberg's compatriot sixth-seed Mikael Pernfors, also reached the quarterfinals with a 3-6 2-6 1 win over Pedro Rebolledo of Chile.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, was designated to play here by the Men's Tennis Council to help spice up an otherwise weak draw.

"I would have preferred to play in Europe," Edberg said after struggling through his first two matches. But the 22-year-old added: "I think this is a really good preparation (for the French Open). It's a lot of hard work out there."

Defending champion Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the second



Edberg: would prefer to play in Europe

seed, continued his mastery of the damp clay courts and his opponents by overwhelming 15th-seed Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia 6-1 6-0.

The 12th-ranked Gomez, hardly missed a shot and was out of the rain and back in the dry club-

house in a mere 37 minutes — a remarkable time on such a slow surface.

Srejber, ranked world 59, won just the third game of the first set before Gomez took the next 10.

"I knew if I got on top of him, he would stay down. I didn't want to stay out there all day," said Gomez after his third easy, straight sets win.

Wimbledon may always be the most prestigious tennis tournament in the world, but the Tournament of Champions at Forest Hills may soon replace it as the wettest.

For the third time in four days this \$677,500 clay court event at the former home of the US Open was plagued by weather conditions few people would play tennis voluntarily. Even players in the hunt for the \$127,600 winner's cheque looked very unhappy yesterday.

The third round was delayed by rain for an hour and a half, and two minutes after Edberg and Muster began play on the stadium court, opening umbrellas began dotting the stands.

Two minutes later — seven points into the first game — officials suspended play as the

drizzle became a steady rain.

When play resumed an hour and 17 minutes later, Edberg dropped the first two games, then began to find his groove.

Muster, who had lost just one game in his first two matches, hit much harder and deeper than the top seed, but Edberg was able to turn the Austrian's strength to his own advantage.

"He put all the pace on the ball today. In the first two matches I had to do all the work," Edberg said. "Today I just had to defend myself."

As the balls moved through the thick, damp air they became heavier, slower and less suited to Edberg's serve and volley game.

As the match wore on, however, Edberg adjusted to the conditions and his shot placement became more accurate.

Spin

"You have to string your racket looser than normal (in this weather) and not put too much spin on the ball," he explained.

Edberg took control of the match from 3-2 down in the second set. He ran off the next four games, breaking Muster at love in the seventh and ninth games to advance.



Tyson: world champion

Tyson will KO Spinks, says Holmes

LAUREL, Maryland, May 6. (AP): Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes predicted Wednesday that Mike Tyson would knock out Michael Spinks in the fourth round of their fight on June 27.

Holmes, the only man to face both fighters, said Spinks' orthodox style might confuse Tyson at the outset of the heavyweight bout. But, Holmes said, "Tyson will catch up to Spinks and knock him out in the fourth round."

Difficulty

Holmes said Tyson has much more ability and power than Spinks and thus should have little difficulty stretching his professional record to 35-0.

"I can't see Tyson losing," Holmes said. "Spinks just doesn't punch that hard. He comes at you and delivers a flurry of punches, but there's not much behind them."



The Al Kuwait captain receives the trophy from Sheikh Saad

Al Kuwait clinch Amir's Cup

AL KUWAIT overcame Kazma 1-0 Wednesday night to retain the Amir's Cup at Kuwait's Sahah Al Salem stadium.

The only goal of the match was scored by Kuwait national team's star striker Salah Al Hassawi in the 40th minute of the first half.

The match was held under the patronage of HH the Amir and attended by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah on his behalf.

Some 12,000 fans took advantage of the free admission sponsored by Sheikh Saad, who donated KD20,000 in memory of the two Kuwaitis killed on the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, Al Jaberiya, last month.

Both the teams put a lot of emphasis on defence but also squandered a lot of scoring chances that came their way.

The match seemed to be even before Al Hassawi scored what was to be the only goal of the match.

Kazma tried to get back into the match in the second half but they either missed the chances that they got or were thwarted in their efforts by a strong Al Kuwait defence.

Fahaeel club won third place in the championship on Sunday night by beating Al Arabi 1-0.

The Fahaeel players were expelled from Kuwait football on Sunday for violence in the game with Al Kuwait last Thursday. Al Kuwait won that game 1-0.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Benfica offered gold for goals

LISBON, May 6. (Reuters): An Italian coffee firm today offered Benfica a kilo of gold for every goal they score against the Dutch side PSV Eindhoven in the European Cup final on May 25.

English fans snubbing Euro-tourney

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): English fans appear to be snubbing next month's European Soccer Championship in West Germany. The English Football Association (FA) said yesterday they still had several thousand tickets left for the first phase matches against Ireland, the Netherlands and the Soviet Union.

'Evidence' proves case against Budd

DAKAR, May 6. (Reuters): Zola Budd should not run in the Seoul Olympic Games because photographs and press clippings prove she has never severed her links with South Africa, IAAF vice-president Lamine Diack said yesterday.

NBA playoff games results

NEW YORK, May 6. (Reuters): First-round results of National Basketball Association (NBA) playoff games yesterday. Eastern Conference: Cleveland Cavaliers 97; Chicago Bulls 91. (Series tied 2-2). Western Conference: Dallas Mavericks 107; Houston Rockets 97. (Dallas wins series 3-1). Seattle SuperSonics 127; Denver Nuggets 117. (Series tied 2-2).

Dancing Brave under treatment again

NEWMARKET, England, May 6. (Reuters): Dancing Brave, who recently recovered from the rare equine ailment marie's disease, has had a slight relapse and is undergoing further treatment.

Holyfield named Boxer of the Month

MEXICO CITY, May 6. (Reuters): The World Boxing Council (WBC) on Wednesday named American Evander Holyfield its April Boxer of the Month for beating Carlos de Leon of Puerto Rico to win the undisputed world cruiserweight title.

Noah edges Cash in exhibition match

GENEVA, May 6. (AP): Yanick Noah of France downed Pat Cash of Australia, 6-4, 7-5, Wednesday night in an exhibition match organized to benefit AIDS victims.

Morocco sack soccer coach

RABAT, May 6. (Reuters): Morocco's Brazilian-born coach Jose Mehdí Faria, who guided an African nation beyond the first round of the World Cup soccer finals for the first time, has been dismissed, officials said today.

British offered cash for records

LONDON, May 6. (AP): A £25,000 (\$46,500) bonus is being offered to any British track and field performer who breaks a world record on home ground this season.

Botham sacking very harsh, says Lillee

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): Veteran Australian fast-bowler Dennis Lillee, preparing for his first season in the English County Cricket Championship, jumped to the defence of his old adversary and friend Ian Botham on Wednesday.

Lillee, preparing for his debut in the championship at the age of 39 and after 70 Test appearances for Australia, described Queensland's dismissal of the England all-rounder after one year of his three-year contract as "very, very harsh."

Botham was fined 5,000 dollars (\$3,700) by Australia's cricket authorities following separate controversial incidents during the just-completed Australian season.

Damage
The first, involving Lillee who was making his comeback with Tasmania, resulted in around \$1,000 worth of damage to a dressing room in Launceston while the second occurred on a flight from Melbourne to Perth in March and ended with Botham pleading guilty in court to charges of assault and offensive behaviour.

Lillee, who was also fined for his part in the first incident, said on Wednesday that once Botham had paid his fine, "it should have been an end to the affair."

Arthurton shines against team-mates

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): Left-handed batsman Keith Arthurton made an immediate impact on his first tour for West Indies — by hitting 86 against his team-mates.

Arthurton played for an Invitation XI, led by former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd, against his touring colleagues in a charity match yesterday at Uxbridge, on the outskirts of the capital.

Itinerary

Although Arthurton was top scorer in the 50 overs game, and struck West Indies captain Viv Richards for 16 in one over, the touring side won by nine wickets.

West Indies officially open their itinerary against Sussex at Hove tomorrow.

French to miss Test series

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): Bruce French, the England and Nottinghamshire wicketkeeper, is to have an operation on a damaged finger next week and will miss the five-Test series against West Indies.

He said it was unlikely he would play again this season.

He is to have an operation on the index finger of his left hand, which he broke two years ago and which has continued to cause him discomfort.

Specialists have decided to carry out repair work on the top joint by fusing the bones and immobilising the finger.

Sabatini cruises past Dias

ROME, May 6. (Agencies): Second seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina powered into the quarterfinals of the \$200,000 Italian Open women's tennis championship with a quick 6-0, 6-2 victory over Nieve Dias of Brazil last night.

Sabatini now looks odds-on favourite to take the Foro Italico title with her performance, which came on the day top-seeded Chris Evert of the United States pulled out due to inflammation in her right heel.

Evert's fiance Andy Mill announced that the 33-year-old American would be flying home to Boca Raton, Florida, for treatment on what was described

as a longstanding problem, which flared up again during her Wednesday match.

Evert, 33, landed heavily on her right heel during her 7-6 6-0 win over Canada's Nicole Provis aggravating an old injury to the heel-spur bone.

Claudia Kohde-Kilsch played a tentative, frustrated game against the neat, athletic Wiesner, who never let her tall opponent take control from the net and finally wore down her resistance 6-4 4-6 4-6.

The West German, whose serve and volley game often suffers on slow clay surfaces, was plagued by nerves, missing many first serves and frequently hitting

simple volleys into the net.

Wiesner, seeded 13th after reaching the quarterfinals last year, played solid baseline tennis, often passing her opponent as she rushed the net.

"This was my best ever win," said Wiesner, ranked 37th in the world. "I'm feeling more and more confident. I grew up on clay so it's my favourite surface."

Kohde-Kilsch's compatriot Sylvia Hanika, seeded seventh, had little trouble dispatching 18-year-old Alexia Dechaume of France 6-2 6-1 and eighth seed Arantxa Sanchez of Spain also reached the quarterfinals with a 6-3 6-3 win over Yugoslav number one Sahrina Golec.

Spain bans all South Africans

MADRID, May 6. (Reuters): The Spanish government has banned all South Africans from competing in sports events in Spain, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

He confirmed reports that the ministry had instructed all Spanish consulates not to grant visas to South Africans coming to Spain to compete.

Allowed
South Africans entering Spain on a tourist visa will be banned from competing.

Spain had until now allowed South Africans to compete as individuals if they did not represent their country.

But the ministry decided to tighten up the rules after South African world boxing champion Brian Mitchell entered Spain on a tourist visa for a title fight last month.



RESULTS of Stratford Bridge Club tournament held on Tuesday.

N/S
1. Mrs Donna Matthey & Sherin Bassant
2. Ahmed Tawed & Mawdud Sabri
3. Adham Mughith & Saad Saad

F/W
1. K.T. Simon & Dhruva Mukherjee
2. Harkish Sood & Robert Stacker
3. Desmond Pereira & Ravi Bhat

Auriol takes rally lead

AJACCIO, Corsica, May 6. (Reuters): Frenchman Yves Loubet, overnight leader of the Tour of Corsica rally, won seven out of 10 timed special stages yesterday but a gearbox fault has virtually cost him his chance of overall victory.

Lancia driver Loubet lost eight minutes with his gearbox problem and dropped to fourth place before today's final stage as compatriot Didier Auriol in a Ford Sierra took over the lead.

Auriol, the third French driver to hold the lead in three days, only won one timed special stage but did enough to open a gap of two minutes 23 seconds on last year's winner, Frenchman Bernard Beguin in a BMW.

Another French Lancia driver, Bruno Saby, the 1986

champion and this year's first stage winner, is third, five minutes 58 seconds behind, with Loubet six minutes 10 seconds adrift of Auriol.

The leading non-Frenchman is Finland's world champion, Juha Kankkunen, who is fifth in his Toyota.

Corsican Loubet had a more than eventful day. He had to repair the gearbox after just 16 kms of the stage. Later he went off the road, causing turbo damage which also needed repair, and on the last special timed section had a minor collision with some cows.

However, his brilliant and aggressive driving won him the last five timed special stages and pulled him up from sixth to fourth place overall.

Clark reaches second round

CHEPSTOW, Wales, May 6. (Reuters): Howard Clark, runner-up two years ago, survived a roller-coaster round yesterday to beat Spanish Ryder Cup team-mate Jose Maria Olazabal and secure a second round berth in the European Match-play Golf Championship.

Olazabal was one of four members of last year's victorious Ryder Cup team to crash out in

the first round. He was joined by Scotland's Sam Torrance, Irishman Eamonn Darcy and another Spaniard, Jose Rivero.

Clark sneaked through with a two hole victory margin after rolling home a 40 foot putt at the 18th hole. But his was a round of mixed fortunes and he seemed to have missed his chance when he could only halve the 12th with a six.

Hick continues run spree with majestic unbeaten 179

LONDON, May 6. (Reuters): Zimbabwe-born Graeme Hick enhanced his reputation as the outstanding young batsman in English county cricket with a majestic 179 not out for championship leaders Worcestershire yesterday.

Hick's dominant innings against Somerset at Taunton was the most accomplished batting performance on a day when pacemen Jon Agnew and Gladstone Small shared the bowling honours by pressing their claims for an England recall.

Dismissed

Agnew's six for 37 helped Leicestershire to topple Kent for 121 at Leicester, while fellow fast-medium bowler Small took five for 29 as Warwickshire dismissed Yorkshire for 194 at Edgbaston.

Hick lifted Worcestershire from 132 for five to 312 for five at the close, and has now scored 589 runs in six innings this season. He is on course to become the first player since New Zealander Glenn Turner, in 1973, to reach 1,000 runs in first-class games before the end of May.

Hick, who has a possible seven more innings left to achieve that target, showed such command on a dry Taunton pitch giving movement off the seam that he made his runs out of 234, off 237 deliveries.

The 21-year-old Zimbabwean, who will be available for England in 1991, survived a phase in which Somerset snapped up four wickets for 20, including Ian Botham for seven against his former county.

But Hick found an effective ally in wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes, who made 40 not out as the sixth wicket pair shared an unfinished stand of 180. Hick has struck 22 fours and one six.

Agnew, who took 101 wickets last season but was overlooked by England for their winter tours, has impressively renewed his bid for international honours with a tally of 22 wickets in three games.

He exploited a seamers' pitch on which only a defiant innings by Neil Taylor, who carried his bat for 67, held up Leicestershire.

Small, fully fit after injury problems in 1987, took advantage of a green pitch during 23



Getting: two hell tons

penetrative and economical overs. He helped to reduce Yorkshire to 50 for five before wicketkeeper David Bainton (68) and captain Phil Carrick (64) staged a recovery with a sixth wicket stand of 106.

England captain Mike Gatting was dropped first ball and went on to make top score of 52 out of Middlesex's 207 all out against Surrey at the Oval. This was Gatting's second half-century on consecutive days.

On Wednesday Gatting hit an unbeaten 56 off 64 balls in the



Small: five for 29

Benson and Hedges cup match against Sussex at Lord's to guide Middlesex to their fifth successive victory.

The weather, rather than Sussex's bowlers, posed the biggest threat to Middlesex's winning streak being continued.

After they had cruised to 158 for two in reply to Sussex's 55-over total of 182 for nine, a thunderstorm held up play for three and a half hours. Middlesex won by five wickets with more than seven overs to spare.

Surrey just beat the same



Agnew: six for 37

storm to crush Kent by nine wickets in their resumed tie at the Oval.

Grahame Clinton, 94 not out overnight, went on to score an unbeaten 121 — his highest score in the competition — and Alec Stewart 57 not out as the 64 runs needed to overhaul Kent's score of 245 for eight were collected off only 10 overs.

Results

At Derby: Derbyshire 188 for six in 67 overs (K. Barnett 52, P. Bowler 42) v Essex.
At Leicester: Kent 121 in 41.2

overs (N. Taylor 67 not out, J. Agnew six for 37). Leicestershire 12 for no wicket in seven overs.

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 164 for six in 70 overs (R. Bailey 66, D. Capel 40) v Gloucestershire.

At Taunton: Worcester 312 for five (G. Hick 179 not out, G. Lord 49, S. Rhodes 40 not out) v Somerset.

At the Oval: Middlesex 207 in 80.2 overs (M. Gatting 52), 44 for three in 26 overs. Surrey 44 for three in 26 overs.

At Edgbaston: Yorkshire 194 in 81.5 overs (D. Bainton 68, P. Carrick 64, G. Small five for 29, D. Reeve four for 50). Warwickshire 50 for four in 26 overs.

At Trent Bridge: Lancashire 190 for eight in 78 overs (N. Fairbrother 91 not out) v Nottinghamshire.

At Cambridge: Glamorgan 331 for three (A. Butcher 166 not out, A. Cottee 68, G. Holmes 53 not out) v Cambridge University.

At Oxford: Hampshire 370 for seven declared (R. Smith 118, D. Turner 76, K. James 42, J. Ayling 41, M. Nicholas 40). Oxford University 38 for not wicket.

Jahangir sets sights on World Open title

AMSTERDAM, May 6. (Reuters): Jahangir Khan, buoyed by his seventh successive British Open title last month, now has his sights firmly set on winning the World Open championship, which begins tomorrow, for the sixth time.

The man most likely to deny him that feat is fellow Pakistani Jansher Khao who dethroned Jahangir as world number one.

Jansher, an orthodox Muslim who prays five times a day, took the squash world by storm when he won the title at the age of 18 last year and has since established himself at the head of the world rankings.

But five times world champion Jahangir has shown signs of recovering his best form in recent months and is likely to offer Jansher his stiffest challenge since taking the title last year if the pair meet, as expected, in the final.

Jansher, the top seed here, crashed out in the British Open to world number four Rodney Martin of Australia, but added to his titles this year by winning the French Open Championship.

Rise
Apart from the world title, Jansher won nine Grand Prix tournaments in 1987 and beat Jahangir on seven consecutive occasions as he continued his meteoric rise which began at the World Junior Championships two years ago.

Jansher says the secret to his success lies in hard work, plenty of sleep and a 5:30 alarm-call every morning.

He has made no secret of the fact he and Jahangir are not bosom pals and clearly relished beating his compatriot in last year's tournament before going on to reach the final and defeating Australian Chris Dittmar for the title.

Jansher appears to have an easier route to an expected showdown with Jahangir since he has avoided Martin and world number three Dittmar in his half of the draw.

He starts the 32-player tournament, which has attracted the top 22-ranked players in the world with a first-round match against Dutchman Hans Frieing, ranked 65th in the world. If results go to form, he should meet 1986 world champion Ros Norman of New Zealand in an intriguing semifinal.

Jahangir's first match is against Australian Austin Adarraga while left-hander Dittmar, runner-up in two world finals in the last five years, takes on Sweden's Anders Wahlstedt.

Rangers' player

GLASGOW, May 6. (Reuters): Graham Roberts, Glasgow Rangers' stand-in captain for the past six months, has played his last game for the Scottish club.

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